

# Elisha Cures Naaman's Leprosy

2 Kings 5:1-3, 9-14

Old  
Testament  
Story Time



A long time ago lived a mighty valiant soldier named Naaman. Naaman commanded the whole army of the king of Aram and Naaman brought many victories to Aram. But Naaman had one big problem - he was a leper!

Now Naaman's wife had a servant girl from the land of Israel. One day she said to her mistress, "If only my master would present himself to the prophet in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy!" The only hope for Naaman was a miracle, so he thought he would give it a shot.

The King of Aram sent Naaman to the king of Israel with a letter asking him to cure Naaman of his leprosy. When the king of Israel saw the note, however, he was outraged! He was not a god who could cure people! But the great prophet of Israel, a man named Elisha, heard about the request. Elisha told the King to have Naaman come to him.

When Naaman went to the prophet Elisha, a messenger gave Naaman the instructions to wash seven times in the Jordan River. Naaman was very angry with this message. First of all, he was an important man and in his pride he felt Elisha should have come out to him, not send a lowly messenger. And then to wash in the Jordan River -- what was so great about the water in the Jordan? Didn't they have much cleaner rivers in Aram? One of Naaman's servants, however, pleaded with him to do as the prophet said.

Naaman went down to the Jordan and plunged seven times in the water. On the last time, Naaman's skin was clean and all his leprosy was gone. It was a miracle! But the greatest miracle was Naaman began that day to believe in and worship the one true Lord God.

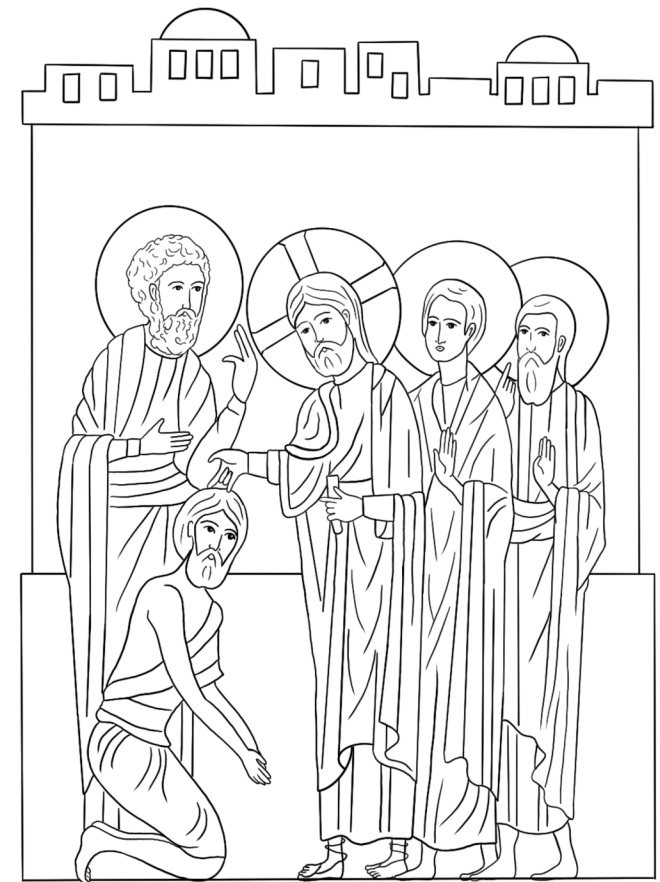


Cedar  
Kids



The Way of Blessed Estephan Douaihy

2nd Sunday of Great Lent  
The Healing of the Leper, Vol 1, No.25



Great Physician, hear our prayer:  
heal our bodies and our souls,  
cleansing us from the stain of sin  
with the balm of your great love.





# Gospel Corner

Mark  
1:35-45

At the beginning of today's Gospel reading, Jesus had been staying at the home of Peter (also known as Simon). Every day, people were coming to Him, to hear his teachings and to be healed by Him. On this particular morning, Jesus got up before sunup, left Peter's house and "went off to a deserted place, where He prayed." After this, Jesus and the disciples journeyed to other villages.

Next in our story, Jesus is approached by a leper. Leprosy was a skin disease that we hear about often in the Bible because it was very contagious. It was a terrible disease and would eat away at people and eventually cause them to lose their hands and feet. Of course, no one wanted leprosy, so when someone became sick with it, they became an outcast and were not allowed in normal society anymore. No one went near lepers and they were labeled, "unclean."

Jesus was different though. He was not afraid of someone with leprosy. In fact, Jesus not only spoke to the leper, but he *touch*ed him, and *heal*ed him.



Chances are, you don't have leprosy, but maybe you are dealing with something that you feel like no one wants to hear about. Maybe you feel like an outcast or maybe you're going through something hard. Whatever it is, Jesus wants to help you, just like He wanted to help the leper. He wants to hear about your difficulties, and He wants to help you.



Whenever you feel like you need help and there is no one to listen, turn to Jesus. Talk to Him and He will hear you. Certainly He will help by sending you peace, or a friend, or by giving you the strength to get through your problem. Regardless of how Jesus helps, remember, there is no problem too little or too big that Jesus does not want to hear about and heal.

## Did you know?



The Season of Great Lent is forty days long in imitation of the forty days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness. In the Maronite Church, we begin Lent on Cana Sunday and conclude the Friday before Hosanna Sunday. On this Friday we celebrate the Temptation of Jesus in the Wilderness. After Jesus spent forty days fasting in the desert, he allowed Satan to tempt him three times. Like Jesus, we hope to emerge from our forty-day fast ready to live courageously for the Lord.

## What you can do



Pay attention to the people around you. If there is a kid you know who is a bit of an "outcast" say hi to them and invite them to play with you just as Jesus would do.

Talk to Jesus when you have a problem. Tell Him how you're feeling and ask Him for help.

# Healing of the Lepers Word Search

Find the words from today's Old Testament and Gospel reading hidden below.

J O R D A N R I V E R F L I J G D E A R  
 G W P K A Z L N J E S U S M P J H A D A  
 Z U M A G C I W L U G L E P E R L E I F  
 N E M Y Q P C C E G H R L G R N L X N Q  
 B A E Q E S F F P P M W G O R A O B N K  
 N T N L O G K I R K F E F F E E J Y Y U  
 A R A M I O W B O N W A Z H E D T J C H  
 Y D P J W S M Q S P B C L E Z Q N E D H  
 N A O N P T H M Y Q F H G Y V S Z W P T  
 S B Z L L S A A K D G K V F T W D L R B

- Leprosy
- Healed
- Peter
- Jesus
- Leper
- Naaman
- Elisha
- Aram
- Jordan River