

Bible Study Teaching Plan for June 24, Lesson 4  
Rescue & Redemption "Healing & Judgment," 2 Kings 5  
Teaching Plan by Dr. Williamson

CREATE INTEREST

1. SAY: If you were ever a part of a Catholic church or tradition, you probably will have an easier time answering this question. I say that because Baptists don't often refer to this teaching or phrase.

ASK: Has anyone ever heard of or know what the "seven deadly sins" are? Let's see if we can name them. (If no one knows, have someone use their phone and go to Wikipedia and look up "seven deadly sins.")

Answer: The seven deadly sins, also called cardinal sins, are a grouping of sins taught about because of the dangers of them. They are emphasized more within the Catholic portion of Christian tradition. These sins are classified in this way because these sins seem to directly or indirectly lead to other sins. And we know Romans 6:23 says, "The wages of sin is death."

Tradition says the seven deadly sins are pride, greed, lust, envy, gluttony, wrath, and sloth. Write Pride and Greed on the marker board.

2. SAY: In our study of Rescue and Redemption, we look today at an Old Testament story, where two of these "deadly sins," pride and greed, are on display. Pride nearly keeps the main character in our story, Naaman, from receiving the "rescue" God has for him.

3. SAY: Take your Bible and turn to 2 Kings 5. This summer series is a topical study, (rather than a verse-by-verse study through a particular book of the Bible). The primary teaching idea is for us to see that God ALWAYS had a plan for providing Rescue and Redemption for his creation. He knew that we would sin. God's plan from the beginning was to rescue and redeem us, and this was ultimately done through his son, Jesus', death on the cross. This series lets us see how God was at work through history to bring about his redemption.

GUIDE BIBLE STUDY

4. SAY: The other thing we have seen in this summer study is that for people to be "rescued," something bad must have happened. And that will be true again today.

Have volunteer read II Kings 5:1-2.

ASK: What do you know about the disease, leprosy? (You probably are only familiar with it from other Biblical stories). Discuss. Answers: It was a skin disease that included open wounds, scabs, and white, sickly skin. It was a dreaded disease. If you had it, you were isolated, and often sent into exile (to be with other lepers). It made you "unclean" in the Israelite tradition, and therefore you couldn't be with others to worship God. It affected a person mentally, physically, emotionally, and socially. It was awful. Fortunately, a cure was discovered in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

5. ASK: What else do these verses tell us about Naaman? (He was a military commander in the army of Aram (Syria); He was thought very highly of, and respected; the Aram army had captured some Israelites, including a young girl who became Naaman's wife's servant.)

6. Have volunteer read vs. 3-6. SAY: The young Israelite servant knew of the great prophet, Elisha. The servant girl also had compassion for Naaman, and wanted him to be cured. And of course, Naaman

wanted to be cured (or “rescued,” in light of this study). Everyone who knew Naaman wanted him to be cured, even his king.

ASK: What does it appear Naaman’s plan was? (Answer: He’s hoping to “buy” a cure from Elisha in Israel/Samaria.)

7. Have volunteer read vs. 7. ASK: What happened in this verse? What does it reveal to us about the “mind frame” of Israel’s king? (The King of Israel either has no or little faith in the God of his nation; or doesn’t know about the prophet Elisha. He becomes fearful that Aram/Syria will come back after the Israelites because he cannot help Naaman).

8. Have volunteer read vs. 8-12. ASK: How do we see the sin of “pride” on display in Naaman’s life? Discuss. (Answers: he is angry that Elisha doesn’t come and see him personally. He thinks he was “brushed off” by Elisha; Naaman’s pride caused him to come up with his own “better solutions,” i.e. if it was as simple as bathing in a river, Damascus has much bigger and prettier rivers than the Jordan.)

ASK: What do you think Naaman was expecting? Discuss. (A miraculous cure or prayer from Elisha; at least, meeting Elisha.)

9. Read vs. 13-15. What role does the servant’s faith play in Naaman’s “rescue”? Discuss. (if not for her and her faith in God, Naaman probably would have missed his healing/rescue.

ASK: What can we learn from the servant? What example does she set for us? Discuss. (One doesn’t have to have a great “status” in life to have a great faith in God. A few “godly words” at the right time go a long ways to help others).

ASK the following questions: If you didn’t or don’t know the rest of the story, what do you think Elisha will do, when Naaman comes back with so much gratitude? Will he or should we accept the gift from Naaman? Would most people accept the gifts? In what ways would it be acceptable and expected to take the gifts from Naaman? Discuss.

10. Have volunteer read vs. 16-18.

ASK: Why did Elisha REFUSE the gift from Naaman? Discuss.

TEACHER: After that question, explain how taking dirt from Israel back to Aram was seen as a way of worshipping the God of the land of the Israelites.

Also, point out that Naaman is still under the orders of the King of Aram, so there will be times he must follow orders of a king who worships another god. Naaman wants Elisha to know that he knows Israel’s God is the only true God and the one he will worship from now on.

11. SAY: Pride almost cost Naaman his “rescue” from leprosy. Naaman ultimately humbled himself enough to go and bath in the Jordan river, and there he received healing from God. Naaman also humbled himself to go back to Elisha and sort of apologize, and offer him gifts.

ASK: In what ways does the sin of “pride” affect people today? Or, why does “pride” deserve to be on the list of “seven deadly sins”? discuss.

12. SAY: Our story continues!

Have volunteer (or two), read the rest of the chapter, verses 19-27.

ASK: What was Gehazi's sin? (Greed, the second on the list of the "seven deadly sins.")

ASK: In Gehazi's case, how did one sin lead to another? What was the result? Discuss.

13. Read I Timothy 6:10: "for the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."

APPLY TO LIFE

14. Have someone read aloud the sidebar, "Dealing with Pride," from the Study Guide.

ASK: What are your "take aways" from our study of God's word? Discuss.

ASK: How can you teach (or what have you done to teach) your children (or grandchildren, or a new believer in Jesus) to avoid or have an escape route from Pride? Discuss. From Greed? Discuss.

ASK: In what ways does "sin" lead us on a path away from God?

ASK: If we know it's harmful or wrong, How does Satan make sin look "good enough" that we give in to his temptations. Discuss.