WEDNESDAY

God has the power to

HEAL!

Glacier Bay Resort and Convention Center

GLACIER BAY RESORT

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God has the power to HEAL

'He heals the broken-hearted and bandages their wounds.' Psalm 147:3

God heals Naaman

MALLORY

"With God, all things

GOD HEALS

Did you Know?

Naaman is described in 2 Kings 5:1 as having leprosy. Most Bible scholars agree there
are two general types of leprosy described throughout Scripture. The first type is known
today as Hansen's disease and is what most people associate with the word "leprosy"—a contagious disease that disfigures the body and leads to an early death. The other reference to leprosy in Scripture describes more general skin diseases that, while significant, were less severe conditions—although there was still a social stigma connected with them.

Because Naaman's condition is not described as being contagious, he probably had this
second, less severe type of leprosy.

To assist Naaman in seeking a cure for his leprosy, the king of Aram (Syria) sent Naaman with an introduction letter and gifts to present to the king of Israel. These gifts include750 pounds of silver and 150 pounds of gold. That amount is astounding! Today that many pounds of silver and gold would be worth around three-quarters of a *billion* dollars!

Second Kings 5:17 says that Naaman took two loads of earth (soil) back home with him
after he had been healed. In ancient Middle-Eastern culture, the identity of a god was often associated with the land where they were worshiped. Naaman took the soil back to Aram as a tangible reminder of what God had done for him; Naaman most likely would have used the soil to build an altar to God.

Why it Matters

Today's kids are used to instant gratification. Computers, smartphones, and tablets help kids connect with friends, information, and the world around them in seconds. As you talk about God's power to heal, you have the opportunity to remind kids that God's healing doesn't usually happen instantly. Sometimes healing can take a long time, whether it's a broken bone, an illness like cancer, or the healing of a relationship. And sometimes healing doesn't happen until we're in heaven with God. Help kids understand God's power to heal and the many different ways that healing may come.

Pack Your Bags

Look for these items in your daily supply bag:

- Daily poster
- Balloons (20 per class)
- Masking Tape (provided in teacher supply box)
- Several sets of "emoji" cards for Bible verse activity
- A copy of the Peter skit for Thursday.

You do not need to provide anything from home today.

Here are some things you should do to set up before you begin:

For those classrooms that don't have a sink use the provided bucket filled with water. Using the blue tablecloth from yesterday, place it close to the sink but not where the kids will step on it when they are standing at the sink.

Think about tomorrow, today: You will be doing a skit with "Peter" tomorrow. Ask your adult aide or youth helper to play the part. Give them a copy of the script, provided in your daily supply bag so they can look it over and be ready for Thursday. Also think about a costume for Peter – some sheets or a bath robe or something.

Check In

Welcome back to Glacier Bay Resort! I'm glad you're here! I can't wait to explore another totally true Bible story. Let's get started! Today we're learning that God has the power to heal.

During the last two Bible adventures, we've traveled with a prophet named Elijah. Who can tell what happened to Elijah the last few days?

(Let kids call out a few answers.)

Yup, Elijah had some amazing adventures! Today's Bible story doesn't actually fea-

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ture Elijah, but it *does* feature a friend of his! Remember yesterday how Elijah was down and depressed because he thought he was the only one who was following God? God told him there were others who could help him. Well, God sent a friend to help Elijah.

Think of a friend in your life who helps you. Maybe your friend is from school or your neighborhood, or here's a thought — even a brother and sister can be a friend! When I count to 3, shout out the name of a friend who helps you. Ready? 1…2…3!

(*Pause as your guest's shout.)*
Friends are great! Well, God sent Elijah a friend—another prophet, named Elisha. Elijah, Elisha. The names sound kind of close, but they were two different people. And today we'll meet Elisha.

(Be sure to clearly enunciate the "sha" in Elisha's name so guests won't be confused about who you are talking about.)

Before we get to Elisha, we need to meet a guy named Naaman. Naaman was a soldier. In fact, the Bible calls him a mighty warrior. He was in charge of a big army—and he was the head guy! The commander of the army! Naaman was waaay important, and all his soldiers had to obey him.

Have you ever been in the army?

(Point to a child.)

How about you? Or you? Raise your hand if you have a dad or mom or relative in the Army!

So? None of you has been in the army? Well, today's the day! Everybody stand up!

(Have everyone jump up!)

You're in Naaman's army now, soldiers! Listen up! We have some drills we need to do before we can get started! Troops! Get over here and line up for marching drills!

(Instruct the guests in a few drills, such as marching in place, jumping jacks, push-ups, and running in place. After a couple minutes, call time.)

Enough! Enough! I can't watch this anymore—come back to base camp and sit down!

(Wait for everyone to be seated and calmed down a bit.)

How did you like being in Naaman's army?

(Let kids respond.)

That's the life of a soldier. Lots of hard work. And that was Naaman's life—he didn't sit around while he was in charge. He was the commander! But Naaman had another challenge, besides being in charge of an army. He had a serious health problem, too.

In our society—from people you know or what you see on the news—what would you say is the biggest health problem people have to deal with today?

(*Give a little time to think; then ask for a few children to share.)*

Thanks for those answers. There are lots of serious health problems in our society, that's for sure. And Bible times were no different. But remember, God has the power to heal.

Naaman had a tough disease called leprosy. In Bible times, leprosy caused spots on your body. It was a bad disease to have! And since here at Glacier Bay Resort we experience the Bible story, let's see some spots!

(Distribute the washable markers from your supply box, one per guest, and have guests draw spots on their own hands only! Emphasize that we want spots only on their hands—not on their arms, faces, or clothing. After everyone has drawn spots, collect the markers.)

You all drew spots just now; but what if you were the only one in your lodge with spots? How would you feel then?

(*Let kids call out answers.)*

Being sick, especially when it shows on the outside, is hard. It must have been hard for Naaman, because here's what happened next.

Wake Up Call

There was a young slave girl from Israel living in Naaman's household. She told Naaman's wife that Naaman should go to her country because there was a prophet there who could heal Naaman's leprosy. And that prophet was Elisha!

(NOTE: Elisha! Not Elijah.)

Naaman's wife told Naaman about Elisha, Naaman told his king, and the king sent Naaman to Israel to see if he could be healed. So off Naaman went to find Elisha. Let's see if *we* can find Elisha's house!

"With God, all things

(*Point to the map showing where Elisha lived in Abel-meholah and where Namaan lived in Aram, near Damascus. Then have guests get up and travel with you to another part of the room, settling away from the "river."*)

Come over here! This looks promising. I think it might be Elisha's house.

(*Gather guests together, and have them remain standing.*)

When Naaman got to Elisha's house, Elisha sent out a servant with this message: "Go and wash yourself seven times in the Jordan River. Then your skin will be restored, and you will be healed of your leprosy."

Wow, that's not so hard to do. In fact, it sounds pretty easy. Naaman was told he could do something easy and be healed! How do you think Naaman felt, knowing he could be healed?

When I count to 3, strike a silent pose to show how you think Naaman felt— happy, excited, whatever. Ready? 1…2…3!

(*Have everyone strike a pose. Go around to several kids and helpers, and point out the emotion you see on their faces. Say things like, "You look excited; I see 'confused' over here; I see 'really happy' here; wow, you look joyful."*)

Check the clock. Time for snack? Do you have enough time to finish?

Those are good guesses. You'd think Naaman would be excited or happy. But guess what? Naaman was actually mad! Show me your best angry and mad pose—go!

(*Pause as everyone poses.*)

The Bible says Naaman stalked away in a rage. Do you know what it means to stalk? It looks like this.

(*Demonstrate angry stalking for several steps, and then turn around and stalk back.*)

When I count to 3, let me see some angry stalking! You can stalk a few paces back and forth. Ready? 1…2…3!

(*It's okay if everyone stalks in different directions, but caution them not to run into anyone while stalking around! Call time, and gather*

everyone back for more of the Bible story.)

Naaman was insulted that Elisha himself didn't come out to talk. After all, Naaman was a commander of the army! An important guy! And Elisha sends a servant to talk to him? And says to dip in the Jordan River? The Jordan River was a dirty, tiny little river compared to the big rivers in Naaman's country. Why should he have to wash in the Jordan?

Naaman was done! He was ready to leave. But his officers said, "Look, we're here. Why not try it? If he had told you to do something hard, you would do it. But this is simple. Why not give it a try?"

So Naaman went down to the Jordan River. Come on over to our Jordan River. Find a spot on either side where you're near the water, but don't touch the water yet. We're all going to go together, so wait until I tell you.

(Lead guests to your "river." As Guests are gathering around it, remind everyone to wait to touch the water until you tell them to do so. Have them dip their hands in the water, two at a time or however many guests can fit comfortably around the water. Make sure there is an adult or bellhop turning on the water and another one supervising the "dipping/")

Naaman dipped himself in the river seven times. Are you ready to dip? We'll dip and count together when I say "go." Ready…set…go! Everyone count together!

(Have kids dip their hands in the water seven times, with everyone counting together:)

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7!

(The marker spots will completely disappear – we hope! When everyone has had a chance to dip in the water, have them get back into their groups and ask:)

What just happened? How's your leprosy?

(*Have kids go back and sit with their Groups. Give each Guest a paper towel to dry their hands as you continue.*)

God has the power to heal. God healed Naaman, and he can heal us.

(Briefly talk about a time when you were sick and God healed you. It might have been serious, or something simple like a stomach flu or bad cold. Share something you're comfortable with. And then ask the kids to share some of their stories about being sick and getting well again.)

It sounds like God has healed all of us at one time or another. God is so powerful! And although God has the power to heal, sometimes we don't always understand God's plan, because he doesn't always heal our bodies here on Earth.

Have you ever known anyone who was sick and God didn't heal them?

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(*Allow kids to offer some answers and discuss.)*

It's true that sometimes God doesn't heal our bodies here on Earth; sometimes he waits until we get to heaven. We'll hear more about that later this week. But no matter what, God will always heal our hearts here on Earth!

When Naaman went home, something special happened. Even though people in his country worshiped false gods, Naaman vowed to follow only the one true
God of Israel who had healed him. And since Naaman was an important army commander, he'd be able to tell lots of people in his country about the real God—our God! God's power always has a plan!

Turn Down Service

(Directions for Activity There are two different games using balloons. Pick the one that suits your class the best. The second game may be best for younger elementary guests.)

(Option 1 - Wheelbarrow balloons)

Stay in your groups.

(Give each guest a balloon.)

Each team needs to blow up 8 balloons.

(Maybe do a few more for older classes.)

Now you need to pick two volunteers from your team that can "wheelbarrow" well.
This is how you wheelbarrow: The "driver" holds the feet or legs of the "wheelbarrow" who moves him/herself forward with their hands.

Once you've picked your wheelbarrow team, each team gets 6-feet long strip of tape to wrap STICKY SIDE OUT around their wheelbarrow person. Make sure that you wrap around their torso only.

Once that is done, we're going to put the balloons that each team blew up on this side of the room. The teams will stand over here on the other side of the room. When I say "Go," each wheelbarrow team will move to the other side of the room, wheelbarrow-style of course, and then the driver will move the wheelbarrow around, no hands allowed, so that as many of the 8 balloons stick to the tape

of the wheelbarrow as possible.

Once all balloons are picked up, the wheelbarrow comes back and the rest of the team takes the balloons off and pops them with their feet.

First team to have their wheelbarrow "infected" with balloons and then "restored" by popping the infection – Yuk! – wins!

(Play the game. Ask the guests to help clean up all the popped balloons.)

So before the game began, what did the person who played the wheelbarrow look like?

(A lot like how s/he looks now, right?)

But during the game, what did the wheelbarrow person look like?

(Covered in tape and balloons).

And what do you think people would think of the wheelbarrow person if she/he walked into a store or a gas station dressed up like that?

(They'd laugh, maybe think it's cool, etc)

The wheelbarrow person would really stick out, though, right?

So that's what happened to Naaman. He was normal. But then when he got leprosy, he stuck out. Except, instead of being laughed at, people ran away from him, worried that they'd get what he had.

So when Naaman is healed, it's not just that his skin gets better. But it's also that he gets his life back. His life is restored. He's back to being "normal" just like the wheelbarrow person is now back to being normal.

And who helped restore the wheelbarrow person? That's right, you did. Friends and teammates did.

And that's who helped Naaman experience God's healing! The people around Naaman who loved him and cared for him helped him be obedient to God.

Option 2 - Balloons

Stay in your groups. *Give each guest a balloon.*

Each team needs to blow up 8 balloons.

(M*aybe do a few more for older classes.)*

Now you need to pick one volunteer from your team who will be Namaan.

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Once you've picked who will be Namaan, each team gets 6-feet long strip of tape to wrap STICKY SIDE OUT around their Naaman. Make sure that you wrap around their torso only. Once that is done, we're going to put the balloons that each team blew up on this side of the room.

The teams will stand over here on the other side of the room.

When I say "Go", one at a time each guest will move to the other side of the room, pick up a balloon of their teams color and stick it on Namaan, continue the game until all balloons are sticking to Namaan.

Once all balloons are stuck to the tape, the team takes the balloons off and pops them with their feet.

First team to pop all the balloons wins! Make sure the teams stick the balloons onto Namaan before popping them.

(Play the game and then have the guests clean up the popped balloons.)

So before the game began, what did the person who played Namaan look like?

(A lot like how she/he looks now, right?)

But during the game, what did Namaan look like?

(Covered in tape and balloons).

And what do you think people would think of Namaan if she/he walked into a store or a gas station dressed up like that?

(They'd laugh, maybe think it's cool, etc)

Namaan would really stick out, though, right?

So that's what happened to the real Naaman in our Bible lesson. He was normal. But then when he got leprosy, he stuck out.

Except, instead of being laughed at, people ran away from him, worried that they'd get what he had.

So when Naaman is healed, it's not just that his skin gets better. But it's also that he gets his life back. His life is restored. He's back to being "normal" just like the person playing Naaman is now back to being normal.

And who helped restore the Namaan person? That's right, you did. Friends and teammates did.

are possible." Matt. 19:26

And that's who helped Naaman experience God's healing! The people around Naaman who loved him and cared for him helped him be obedient to God.

Check the clock. Time for snack? Do you have enough time to finish?

Bible Buddies

Naaman told others about God when he got back to his country.

(Hold up a Day 3 Bible Buddy card, and show guests the words.)

When you get home, you can use your Bible Buddies to tell someone you know about our powerful God.

(Give each group leader enough Bible Buddies for everyone in the Lodge. Ask them to put them in their badge holders.)

Scripture Memory

If you have extra time… Hand out the Emoji cards from your supply bag and have the teams put the scripture verse for today in order.

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NOTES