

“Becoming like a child”

We are offering a series of reflections for individuals and churches who may be finding it difficult to provide midweek prayer and shared learning from Scripture. You can use these by watching the YouTube video, reading the relevant Bible passage and then reflecting on the questions below. To help make this a shared activity, you are encouraged to reflect on this together with friends using an online conference package, or simply arrange with a friend for them to watch it too. Then ring each other up, share your thoughts and responses and then pray for one another, and pray together for our world.

Read 2 Kings 5:9-14

Watch the YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/80nUOkgKUUQ>

This is the third and final reflection from the story of Naaman, and you are invited to engage this time from the perspective of Naaman himself. As you consider his experience, some questions you might want to ponder are:

What are the options that I am facing at the moment? Although circumstances may have been beyond Naaman’s control – his choices weren’t. At the door of Elisha’s house, he struggled to make the right choice through refusing to let go of his own self-importance. What are the voices you are listening to at the moment? What are the options that you face? Which are the options of hope - which are the options of despair? Are you choosing the right ones?

What do I need to let go of? What do you need release and change? For Naaman it was his sense of self-importance, his preconceived expectations – for us it might be quite different things – perhaps past hurts and disappointments, or maybe we simply feel we are too unimportant to matter to God. Yet it was the ‘nobodies’ in this story who became crucial. As you come to God – what is the baggage that you know you are bringing? Be honest before God - but also ask which of it you need to set down.

What is God asking me to do? Naaman simply needed to learn to accept and follow God’s direction. The gifts and status symbols he carried with him betrayed the idea that he somehow needed to earn God’s favour or show himself worthy of it. God’s response through the prophet Elisha was “just humbly accept what I offer; just humbly obey.” There were moments when he simply refused to do that; there were moments when he half followed God, but in his own way. Are there times when we act in similar ways? God’s invitation is “come like a child” - accept and trust and follow. Spend some time considering what God might be saying to you at the moment.

PRAYER

All seeing and all-knowing God. As I face the opportunities and challenges of this and every moment, help me to make the right choices and to follow in your pathways. May my hopes and aspirations never become mere expectations – rather help me be open to all that you are; to come to you with humility; to follow you with the trust of a child – with open hands and an open heart to receive all that your grace offers. May I be content to be your child – those whose inheritance is eternity. AMEN