



Your Words Can Change A Life!

By Deborah Wassenberg

Introduction:

“Thus and thus said the girl who is from the land of Israel”. (*2 Kings 5:4*)

Even the smallest voice can point someone to the biggest God. Just like the young girl in Naaman’s house, we can tell others what God has done — that’s called a testimony.

Bible Story: Naaman Is Healed

Bible Reference: *2 Kings 5:1-19*

Visuals You Will Need:

1. Pastor or Minister
2. Naaman
3. Little servant girl
4. King of Israel tearing his robes
5. Elisha
6. Elisha’s servant and Naaman
7. Naaman angry
8. Naaman dipping in the Jordan
9. Picture of contemporary children and the word TESTIMONY

Words:

1. It’s not only grown-ups or special people who can talk about God.
The Bible tells the story of a little girl whose name we don’t even know, but her words changed a man’s whole life.
2. Naaman was a mighty soldier.
A commander of the army of the king of Aram.
He had won many battles and was highly regarded by the king.
Everyone respected him.
But Naaman had a problem – he had a terrible skin disease called leprosy.
No doctor could fix him.
In time, Naaman would die from it.

3. The kingdom of Aram was not far from the Kingdom of Israel, where the prophet Elisha lived.
Bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel.
She was made a servant girl to Naaman's wife.
She said to her mistress, 'If only Naaman would see the prophet who is in Samaria!
He would cure him of his leprosy.'
4. So Naaman asked the King of Aram to write a letter to the King of Israel and set off to visit him with gifts of silver, gold and expensive clothing.
The King of Israel read the letter and tore his robes as a sign of his distress.
'Am I God?
Can I kill and bring people back to life?
Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy?
He must be trying to pick a fight with me!'
5. When Elisha, the prophet of God, heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message:
'Why have you torn your robes?
Send the man to me, and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel.'
6. So Naaman went with his horse and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house.
Elisha sent a messenger to say to him.
Go wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored, and you will be cleansed.'
7. Naaman was furious!
He said, 'I thought that he would come out, stand and call on the name of the Lord his God and cure me of my leprosy.
The rivers of Damascus are better than all the waters of Israel.
Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?'
He turned and went off in a rage.
8. Naaman's servants went after him.
'If the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it?
How much more, then, when he tells you to wash and be cleansed?'
So Naaman went down into the river and dipped once...
Then twice...
He dipped a third time and a fourth time...
Then a fifth and a sixth time...
Then he dipped for the seventh time, and just as Elisha had said, his skin was healed and became clean like that of a young boy!
Naaman said, 'Now I know there is no God in all the world except Israel.'
And it all started with the testimony of one little girl!

9. What is a testimony?

A testimony is telling what God has done.

It is sharing how God has helped you.

It doesn't have to be long.

It doesn't have to be fancy.

It just has to be true!

Your testimony can help someone else find God.

Ministry to the Children:

What is the greatest testimony ever? That while you were a sinner, and utterly helpless and unable to save yourself, Jesus came and died for you. All because God loves you! (*Romans 5:8*) God's grace (getting what you don't deserve) means that He did not wait for you to be good and do everything right. That would be impossible! Jesus, the Son of God, loves you and gave Himself to rescue you. (*Galatians 2:20*) When you believe in Jesus and receive Him into your life, you will live for Him. Every day, you will have a testimony to share with someone!

Memory Verse: Psalm 107:2

Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story.

This is such a short verse that it is easy to learn through repetition. Write the verse out nine times, where every child can see it. Each time, emphasise a different word that the children must yell out. The idea being that they are verbalising the verse. It could get a little loud!

1. **Let** the redeemed of the Lord tell their story.
2. Let **the** redeemed of the Lord tell their story.
3. Let the **redeemed** of the Lord tell their story.
4. Let the redeemed **of** the Lord tell their story.
5. Let the redeemed of **the** Lord tell their story.
6. Let the redeemed of the **Lord** tell their story.
7. Let the redeemed of the Lord **tell** their story.
8. Let the redeemed of the Lord tell **their** story.
9. Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their **story**.

Game: Fruit Salad Game

To play the game, have the children sit in a circle and assign each player one of three fruits, for example - apples, oranges, or pears. Take turns going around the circle to allow each child to know their designated fruit. Once all players have their assigned fruit, one player stands in the centre of the circle and shouts the name of a fruit.

When a fruit name is called, all children assigned that fruit must quickly stand up and change places. While the children are changing places, the player in the centre tries to claim one of the available spots. The player left without a seat then becomes the caller in the centre of the circle for the next round.

Craft: Puppet with a Mouth

There are a variety of puppets your children could make, depending on their age and how much time you have. You'll find examples on the internet.

1. Folded cardboard (slip over the fingers and thumb)
2. Paper hand puppets (templates available for download from various sites)
3. Paper plate (the simplest)
4. Sock (the most involved and a great option for Kid's Club or holiday programs that provide time over several days)
5. Origami hand puppet (tutorial on YouTube)

Activity: Write or draw your Testimony!

Photocopy the activity sheet overleaf.

- Invite the children to **write or draw a problem or situation** where they needed God's help.

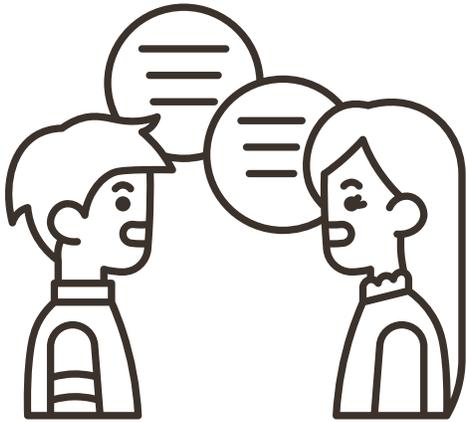
- Ask: **What did you do to get help from God?**

(Examples: prayed, read the Bible, heard a story in Children's Church, talked with a parent, grandparent, or Pastor.)

- Ask: **How did God help you?**

What was the result of asking for God's help? How did He solve the problem, or change the situation, or give you courage, peace, and make you feel loved during a difficult time?

- Encourage the children to **stand and share their testimony** with the group.



My Testimony!

Write or draw...

1. What was your problem?
2. What did you do to get help from God?
3. How did God help you?