

Good as New!  
By Marge Nelson

Play based on 2 Kings 5:1–14

*Adult with a microphone and one child. Each can have a script and read from it or the adult and child can mime the actions while a narrator reads.*

What's the matter, \_\_\_\_\_, you look sad?

I have a friend who's sick and I think he should ask God to make him well.

So what's the problem?

My friend doesn't know about God or the power of prayer.

Why don't you tell him?

I don't think he'd believe me.

Let me tell you a story about a little girl much like you. She lived long ago in the Middle East when people had kingdoms and soldiers and armies. She had been one of the victims of the war in Israel and had been taken captive. She was now the servant of Naaman's wife. Naaman was the commander of the army for the king of Aram.

Just like your friend, Naaman had a kind of sickness. He suffered from leprosy. And just like you, the little girl in the story wanted to help him feel better. She told her mistress about the prophet who lived in Samaria who could cure Naaman of his leprosy. Naaman's wife told him what the young girl had said, Naaman told the king, and the king said go.

Just like your friend, Naaman and the king didn't understand how God does things. The king sent a letter to the king of Israel because he thought that was the way to do it. Naaman took lots of gold and silver because he thought paying for it was the way to do it.

But Naaman was really surprised when the prophet told him what to do. Naaman had expected Elisha to wave his hand over the spot and cure the leprosy. Instead he was told to go to the Jordan River there in Israel and dip himself seven times in the water.

Did he do it?

Eventually. But first he doubted, got angry, was confused, and argued about it.

What changed his mind?

His servants. They knew about God and they believed Naaman could be made well.

And was he? Did he do what Elisha said?

Yes, and yes. And all because a little girl who knew about God told somebody what she believed.

OK, I'm going to have another talk with my friend. Even if something miraculous doesn't happen for him like it did for Naaman, I still need to share what I know about God with him. Thanks.

*Actors leave. Narrator shares central ideas created from the information below.*

### Central Ideas

- In this story God delivered, saved, and was inclusive. God saved even the Gentiles, even an Aramean military commander who defeated Israel in battle.
- God's generosity was given without cost. Elisha would not accept the riches of gold and silver that Naaman offered for his healing.
- The path to restoration takes us through places we would not choose or imagine. Restoration means facing our pride, submitting to the wise guidance of God, understanding that the "high drama" of transformation comes in simple obedience and trust, and following a way we would not choose for ourselves.
- This story portrays the immeasurable importance of an unnamed slave girl who shared news that became the good news of salvation and transformation for Naaman—and impacted other lives as well. There are many "great people" who, in contrast to persons like Naaman, are unacknowledged in the world but do incalculable things for God and the reign of peace on the earth.
- God desires to make us new, cleanse us, baptize us into new life, and bring us wholeness and salvation if we will acknowledge our "dis-ease" and turn in trust and obedience toward the Source of healing.