

## Lesson plan

Main Point: Faith and Actions

Basic Idea: It doesn't matter if you do something, if you don't believe. But if you do believe, it means you will do something.

How we get there: we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another

Start with the story of Naaman (page 74-75) from the book provided. Let the children know this story is found in 2Kings 5:1-14. Then ask the children the following :

1. Elisha was a prophet of God. He had performed many miracles. If God wanted to, do you think Elisha could have healed Naaman by just saying so?
2. Was there something special about the water from the Jordan River?
3. How did Naaman show he believed God could heal him?
4. Could Naaman say he really trusted God to heal him if he would not have obeyed what God said to do?

Help the children see that faith is what pleases God. We cannot do anything to make God love us, and we can't perfectly obey Him. That's why we must believe that Jesus paid for our sins and can make us right before God. But believing Jesus, means we will act different too!

Use Chair illustration (below):

Explain to the children that just like you show your faith in the chair by sitting in it, you show your faith in Jesus by obeying Him. We do not obey Him so that He will forgive us. But because we believe He forgives us, we will obey Him.

Help the see, in the same way Naaman showed he believed God could heal him when he entered the water 7 times. If he had not obeyed Elisha, he would have shown that he did not really believe that God could heal him.

Chair Illustration: (Have fun with this...ham it up)

Have one of you pretend to not trust the chair, while the other tries to convince you that it is safe. Ask the children if they believe the chair can hold up the person. Ask the person if he believes the chair can hold him up. (Have him answer no.) Ask the children how they can show the person the chair can hold him. (Help coach the children toward taking turns sitting in the chair to show it can hold someone up.) Eventually, ask the person if they believe the chair can hold them up (and answer yes), however the "doubter" should refuse to sit in the chair. Show the children that this is not really believing. Eventually, convince the "doubter" to sit in the chair, which shows they really do believe it can hold them up.

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1 John 3:23-24, February 17, 2008

