



NAAMAN THE COMMANDER

There is good news for those of us who have made serious mistakes in our past. Let's look into some Biblical case studies.

1. The story of this man is recorded in 2 Kings 5:1-19.
 - a. What disease did he have? (5:1) _____
 - b. What was his job? (5:1) _____
 - c. Who was his boss? (5:1) _____
 - d. What country did he live in? _____
 - e. What did his boss think of him? (5:1) _____

Naaman must have been an amazing man to be mentioned. He was an enemy; He was the leader of a foreign army (nation of Syria). Syria was north of Israel and was putting military pressure on Israel. These two nations were not friends.

2. How do we know that Israel & Syria were not friends? (6:1; 5:2)

3. Where did Naaman get his servant girl? (5:2) _____
4. Y N In your opinion, were Israel & Syria enemies?
5. How is this enemy general described?
 - a. (5:1) Naaman was a _____ and _____ man.
 - b. (5:1) By Naaman, the Lord gave _____ to Syria.
 - c. (5:1) Naaman was a _____ man of _____.

Now, wait a minute! This enemy general was a blessed man. Can that happen? Not only was he respected and successful, but the Lord had given him success in battle, a wife & family, and a servant girl who did not hate him. God works in our lives in different ways than we would ever expect. Naaman kidnapped a girl from Israel, and that girl told him about Elijah the prophet. Can you imagine? Naaman did evil and God turned that into good.

6. Y N Did God give Naaman a second chance after he ruthlessly kidnapped Jewish youth against their will?
7. In your past, when you made a very bad choice and hurt others, was there a time after that when God offered a second chance to you, but you were not interested? Explain. _____
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8. When Naaman was told about the possibility of being healed by a prophet in Israel (their enemy), what was his attitude? (5:4)
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9. Don't you remember times in your past when you were not willing to receive help from anybody? There might have been a second chance waiting, but you would not accept help from "them". Explain.
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Obviously, we have choices. We can help ourselves; we can let God help us; or, we can let someone else (provided by God) help us. Sometimes, we have it all worked out how we will fix our lives. That may not always work.

10. Sometimes, we may try to buy a second chance. Explain how Naaman tried to do this? (5:5) _____
11. Sometimes, we may expect important people to give us that second chance. Explain how Naaman tried to do this? (5:4-5)
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12. Sometimes, we may try to intimidate others by our power and influence to get that second chance. Explain. (5:9)
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13. Y N Will stubbornness & pride provide a second chance?
14. What did Naaman expect Elijah to do? (5:11) _____
15. Where do second chances come from? (5:15) _____
16. Naaman was a proud, self-sufficient man. He became humble. What did he do to show that? (5:13-14) _____
17. What about your second chance. What must you do?
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