

**‘ACTING THE BIBLE’  
at  
Beckley School**

**Naaman  
(2 Kings 5 v 1-19)**

**17 October 2024**

**Joint Benefice of**

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Beckley St. Nicolas, Forest Hill with Shotover  
St. Barnabas, Horton-cum-Studley St. John the Baptist, Stanton St. John

The Four Parishes 'Acting the Bible' team (previously known as 'Open the Book') leads assembly once a fortnight in Beckley School. The team take stories fresh from the pages of the Bible, and make them into mini dramas, to be acted out by themselves, together with Beckley schoolchildren. Through this, it is hoped that the Bible stories are brought alive, and remembered by the children, especially as they too are involved in the acting.

The team is led by Betty Dye, a Licensed Lay Reader, and includes members from Forest Hill, Stanton St John and Beckley. They meet once a fortnight to write the scripts, with the aim of adhering as closely as possible to the original Bible texts. This often involves comparing different Bible translations and even reading the New Testament in the original Greek!

## NAAMAN CURED OF HIS LEPROSY, 17 OCTOBER 2024

### 2 KINGS 5 v1-19

**CAST: NARRATOR, YOUNG SERVING GIRL, NAAMAN, KING OF SYRIA, KING OF ISRAEL, ELISHA, ELISHA'S SERVANT, NAAMAN'S SERVANTS x 4, CHORUS**

*(Children to be seated facing the windows, with a central aisle. KING OF SYRIA on stage near, but not too close to, the curtain. Betty standing with the chorus, ELISHA and ELISHA'S SERVANT behind the curtain, NAAMAN, YOUNG SERVING GIRL and NAAMAN'S SERVANTS by the door)*

#### **NARRATOR:**

Our story today comes from the Old Testament book of Kings and is about a man called Naaman.

Naaman was the commander of a huge army, which was at war with Israel. He was strong and brave and very wealthy (*NAAMAN and NAAMAN's SERVANTS walk on from the door side, NAAMAN scratching his arms*) but he suffered from a dreadful disease called leprosy.

**CHORUS: Oh no, not leprosy! That is bad, really bad.**

In one of their fights against Israel, Naaman's soldiers had captured a young Israelite girl, who became a servant of his wife. (*YOUNG SERVING GIRL walk on from the door side*)

One day the young serving girl spoke to Naaman.

**YOUNG SERVING GIRL:** Master, I wish you could go to my country. A man of God lives there, called Elisha. He could make you better.

**NAAMAN:** Really! All right then, servants, get my horses and chariots ready! *(Servants go off one by one as he points to them)* You must pack up 340 kilograms of silver, 70 kilograms of gold and 10 sets of new clothes to take as gifts. I will go and tell my master, the king, that I want to go to Israel.

*(NAAMAN walk up to where the KING OF SYRIA is standing).*

**NAAMAN:** Your majesty, my wife's servant says that there is a man of God in Israel, called Elisha, who can cure my leprosy.

**KING OF SYRIA:** In that case you must go to Israel. Take this letter with you. It says: *(read scroll)* "With this letter from me, King of Syria, I am sending my servant Naaman to you, King of Israel, so you may cure him of his leprosy".

*(KING OF SYRIA walk off to stand with the chorus, KING OF ISRAEL take his place. NAAMAN take scroll and walk round the hall, collecting his SERVANTS on the way)*

**CHORUS: Will the King cure Naaman's leprosy?**

**NARRATOR:** When they arrived in Israel, they went straight to the palace and presented the letter. *(NAAMAN and SERVANTS walk up the central aisle to the King of Israel)* But when the King of Israel read the letter, he was furious, and he shouted.

**KING OF ISRAEL:** Am I a God? Can I cure people of leprosy? The King of Syria just wants to pick a quarrel with me.

**NARRATOR:** Elisha the man of God, heard all about the trouble and so he sent a message to ask Naaman to come and see him instead. *KING of ISRAELI walk off to join the chorus. NAAMAN and SERVANTS march importantly round the hall and stop facing the curtain*) When Naaman arrived at Elisha's house with his horses and his chariots, he waited for Elisha to come out to him, *(NAAMAN knock loudly)* but he didn't come. Instead, he sent out a servant, who said: *(ELISHA'S SERVANT come out from behind the curtain)*

**ELISHA'S SERVANT:** My master Elisha says "Go and wash yourself 7 times in the river Jordan and you will be completely cured of leprosy".

**CHORUS: Will washing in the river cure Naaman's leprosy?**

**NAAMAN:** Wash in the Jordan? Whatever for? I thought this man of God would at least come out to me, pray to the Lord his God and heal me! But he has sent his servant to speak to me instead! We have rivers in my own country that I could have washed in. Why do I have to bother with this local river? I am going to go home!

**SERVANT 1: No master, think again!**

**SERVANT 2: If this man of God had asked you to do something really difficult, you would have done it.**

**SERVANT 3: Please just go to the river Jordan now and dip down 7 times.**

**SERVANT 4: Please!**

**NAAMAN:** *(to ELISHA's SERVANT)* Very well, I will do as your master Elisha asks. Please show me the way to the river Jordan.

*(BETTY and KATYA put the river in place down the centre.*

*NAAMAN and his SERVANTS turn to face the river.)*

**NARRATOR:** So Naaman went to the River Jordan and did as Elisha had told him.....**children, please join in with the chorus as they count to seven!** *(NAAMAN bob down)*

**CHORUS: One.....Two....Three....Four .... Five ..... Six ....Seven**

**NAAMAN:** *(leap up out of the river and throw arms in the air)* Look everyone! I am cured! All the leprosy has left my body, and my skin looks like new. I must go back and tell Elisha. *(turn towards curtain)*

**CHORUS: Naaman's leprosy is cured!**

**NAAMAN:** Elisha! Elisha! All my leprosy has gone! Now I know that there is no other God in all the world except the Lord God of Israel. Please accept the gifts that I have brought.

**ELISHA:** *(comes out)* No, Naaman, no. As the lord lives, I will not accept any gifts. I did not cure you. It was God who has this power. Please now, just go home in peace!