

WEEK 4

LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God gives us more than we can imagine.

BIBLE

Elisha And Naaman:
2 Kings 5:1–14; Luke 11:1–13

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Art class can help remind us we all create with the same types of materials—the only difference is our imagination! This week, we'll take a look at the story of when Naaman asked for Elisha's help to be healed of leprosy. Instead of getting a meeting with Elisha, Naaman was asked to dream big and do something creative to help him see that **God gives us more than we can imagine**.

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Upside-Down Drawing

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need paper, crayons, and tape. You can show a time-lapse video of a ceiling painting (like [this](#) or [this](#)). Set up two chairs in the front of the room with a piece of paper taped underneath each seat. Create two teams and invite one player from each to come to lie down on their backs, under each chair, and draw on the paper with a crayon. Call out a word to draw and see which player completes it first, or whisper the word to the players and have their teams guess what they've drawn. Repeat with new paper and new players. For added activity at the end, set up the different chairs with finished drawings underneath them and invite kids to do an upside-down "gallery walk," viewing what everyone drew.*
- **Have you ever seen a ceiling with art on it?** The painter Michelangelo is famous for his *fresco* on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, among other works. A *fresco* is a painting that's right on the wall. There are also artists nowadays who do cool paintings on the ceilings of their homes or in public buildings.
- In order to draw on the ceiling, artists need to use tall ladders and scaffolds. They don't have to hang upside down to paint, but what if they did? Imagine how challenging that would be. Let's try our own upside-down drawing challenge to fire up our imaginations before we dive into today's Bible story.

QUESTION | Have you ever gotten more than you'd asked for?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Invite kids to share their answers freely and elaborate on their stories. Be prepared to share a story of your own.*
- **Have you ever asked your parents for something and they gave you more than you expected? When?**
- Sometimes, our thoughts on what we want or need can be limited. We don't always know what's possible because we haven't experienced it before.

- But God loves to give us good gifts. God is so good at listening and giving. God often gives us more than what we ask for—or even deserve.

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

SCRIPTURE | 2 Kings 5:1–14 (Elisha And Naaman)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Encourage kids to draw along as you tell them the following Bible Story.*
- Hello, artists! Welcome back to the *Imagine That!* studio. We're going to create artwork inspired by Scripture.
- **Let's start by reading 2 Kings 5:1–3.**
 - First on the canvas today is Naaman, a strong and mighty soldier. *Draw a figure for Naaman, with just eyes on his face.*
 - Naaman had leprosy, a contagious disease that can make the skin have spots, rashes, and lumps. *Draw a few dots on Naaman's face.* And back then, there was no cure.
 - Thankfully, the girl who worked for Naaman's wife had heard of Elisha. She knew that Elisha could do something to help Naaman.
- **Now let's read 2 Kings 5:4–7.**
 - Naaman was from a place called Aram. Elisha lived in a place called Israel. When the king of Israel got the letter from the king of Aram, he was not happy. *Draw a frowny face with a crown on top.*
 - He thought the king of Aram was trying to pick a fight with him. He wondered what the king of Aram would do if Naaman didn't get healed. What if Naaman came and spread leprosy in Israel?
- **Elisha heard the king was upset and jumped into action in 2 Kings 5:8–12.**
 - Naaman was angry. *Draw an angry frown and eyebrows on Naaman's face.* He didn't like what Elisha was saying. Didn't Elisha know that Naaman was an important man who had traveled a long way with the king's support?
 - But Elisha didn't even show up to meet him. Instead, he simply sent his messenger to tell Naaman ... to take a bath?
- **Thankfully, the people who worked for Naaman gave good advice in 2 Kings 5:13–14.**
 - Naaman's servants helped him remember that he would have done anything to be cured of his disease. So, instead of being bitter about Elisha's message, he could try following what Elisha said.
 - And it worked. *Erase the dots and angry eyebrows from Naaman's face and replace the frown with a smile.* Naaman was healed, but not because the water had any magical powers. He was healed because he had faith in God's power to heal him, and he followed Elisha's directions.
- Whenever I dip my paintbrush into the paint, I'm not always sure how my painting will look, but most of the time, it turns out even better than I thought. God works in a similar way. Naaman probably never thought he could be completely cured of leprosy, but he found out that God's ways are way better than anything we can imagine—even our wildest, brightest, and wackiest ideas. *Imagine that!*

BIG IDEA | God gives us more than we can imagine.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Introduce the kids to today's Big Idea.*
- God gives us more than we can imagine.

SCRIPTURE | Luke 11:1–13

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have the kids close their eyes and listen as you read the scripture passage. Stop after each verse or couple of verses and ask kids to call out some words that stand out to them.
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** Engage preteens more during this activity by asking for one to thirteen volunteers who would like to read at least one verse from the passage aloud.
- When I read this part of the Bible, I picture someone praying. They might have their hands folded or lifted up, be sitting down or on their knees, maybe with their head bowed and eyes closed, or maybe just talking the way you and I are talking to one another.
- Jesus taught this prayer to his friends and followers to give them—and us—some guidelines on how to pray. Jesus invites us to praise God, ask for the things we need, and help with the things we struggle with.
- Jesus teaches us the Lord's Prayer and shows us that we have goodness in us because God created us. So, when someone asks for our help, we usually end up being ready to help, even if we're not super excited about it at first.
- That means that God, who is far greater and loves a whole lot more than we do, is even more generous and willing to give good things than we are. What amazing news.
- Those good things look different for everybody. For Naaman, it was being healed from leprosy. It might be not getting healed for someone else, for reasons only God knows. I know that's not the easiest thing to hear, but because we trust in God's goodness and love, we can trust the things God gives or doesn't give us.
- Even when we might be temporarily disappointed because we didn't get what we asked for, we'll find that in all the ways that matter, **God gives us more than we can imagine.**

VIDEO | *Imagine That!*, Episode 4

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](https://vimeo.com/947029162/02275ebba5?share=copy). (<https://vimeo.com/947029162/02275ebba5?share=copy>)

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

MEMORY VERSE | Ephesians 2:10a (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Learn the memory verse together using any combination of the resources provided: [memory verse coloring page](#), [sign language motions](#), or choose from [this list](#) of our favorite memorization techniques!
- "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works."

PRAYER

- God, the Creator, thank you for the gift of your love, which is bigger than we can imagine. You give us more than we could ever know to ask for. Help us notice and remember all the good things you have already given us. We trust that whatever you do or don't give us is always what's best. Amen.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

DISCUSSION

- **SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS**
 - **Why did Naaman want to meet with Elisha?** Naaman had leprosy. He wanted Elisha to heal him of this disease.
 - **Why was Naaman angry after Elisha told him to wash in the Jordan?** Naaman was angry Elisha didn't come and pray for him in person. He probably also felt that simply washing in the Jordan was beneath him.

- Why do you think God, through Elisha, chose to heal Naaman this way? *Let kids share their thoughts freely.*
 - Read the prayer Jesus taught his friends in Luke 11. What words do you use when you pray?
- APPLICATION QUESTIONS
 - What are some things you need?
 - What are some things others you know need? What can you do for them? What can God do for them?
 - What is one way God has given you more than you can imagine?