

What do you do when a prophet tells you to take a bath? What do you say to a fig tree with no figs? What happens when some young people mock a bald guy? What is a Nephilim? Is the witch of Endor a Star Wars character? Join as we explore these stranger things from the Bible and how they find themselves in the story of God.

## **2 Kings Overview:**

When we look at the ancient nation of Israel we see a tragic history. As a unite people they only had three kings reign over them. Then the kingdom was split in two with Israel in the North and Judah in the South. Israel in the North never again had a king who followed God. Judah had a mix of good kings and bad kings. When the books of 1 and 2 Kings were written both groups were removed from the the land God had promised them and they were in exile. These books were written has an historical account of the Kings and how the people of God had found themselves in exile. Something they never dreamed would happen to them. It was unexpected. And they wondered where God was.

### **Author and Date:**

Unkown around 560B.C.

### **First readers and their location:**

Israelites in exile.

### **Open-up**

What is an unlikely or unexpected encounter you have had in your life? What happened?

Before reading the passage remind yourself what the nation of Israel was called to be in the world in Deuteronomy 26:16-19.

### **Into the Bible—Ask “What does it Say?”**

**Read: 2 Kings 5:1-19**

**What do you notice about the passage itself? (Structure, repeated words or ideas, unique words, main points, what did this passage say to the original author and audience)**

How does the passage with Naaman contrast with Deuteronomy 26:16-19?

Consider the individuals in this story. What do you learn about each of them? (Servants, Naaman, King of Aram, King of Israel, Elisha, God)

What kept Naaman from almost not being healed?



**Into my life**—Ask “What does this look like in my personal life?”

In the end, Naaman displays humility, trust and obedience. Discuss what role these three qualities play in the life of a believer. Which one do you find challenging? What is a step you can take this week to grow in one of these areas?

Have you ever been offended by a fellow believer after they asked you to do something? What was the offense? Why did you respond the way you did? How did, or could, have humility, trust and obedience influenced the outcome of the conversation?

Naaman was going back to Aram a changed man with new priorities and allegiances. What are the things in your life that compete with your allegiance to Jesus? (Use I statements. “In my life...”) (Pray for each other in this)



**Into the World**—Ask “what does this look like in my world?”

Finish the story of Naaman by reading 2 Kings 5: 19-27. What warning is there for people who misrepresent or abuse the gospel message?