

Dramatic Readings

*They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly,
and they gave the sense,
so that the people understood the reading.
Nehemiah 8:8*

Help your students capture the excitement of the Bible stories and express it as they read them aloud. Dramatic readings provide a way for the children to enter into the stories and develop good reading skills as they make a determined effort to bring the words to life.

Start by reading through the story and working out any vocabulary and pronunciation problems. Then talk about the characters and how they feel as the story develops. Encourage the children to put this feeling into their reading without overdoing it. Have them imagine that they are the actual characters as they read their parts. Then do the reading together and make it live!

A modern version is used in the script. Props and actions can be optional.

Naaman the Leper 2 Kings 5:1-15b (ESV)

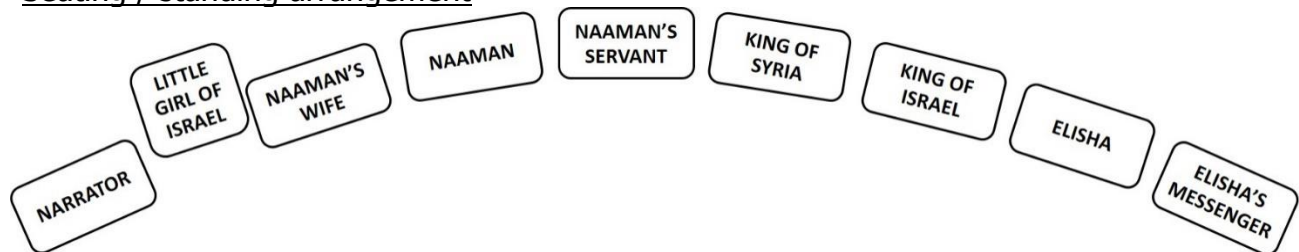
Readers

Narrator, Little girl from Israel, Naaman, Naaman's servant, King of Syria, King of Israel, Elisha, Elisha's servant.

Non-readers

Naaman's wife.

Seating / standing arrangement



The little girl of Israel stands by Naaman's wife.

Props

Scroll (letter), colorful old shirt for the king of Israel (that can be ripped open), eight chairs, large Bible name tags for all participants.

The reading

Narrator: Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the LORD had given

victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper. Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little girl from the land of Israel, and she worked in the service of Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress,

(2 Kings 5:1-3a)

Little girl: "Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

(2 Kings 5:3b)

Narrator: So Naaman went in and told his lord,

(2 Kings 5:4a)

(Action: Naaman stands and walks to the king of Israel.)

Naaman: "Thus and so spoke the girl from the land of Israel."

(2 Kings 5:4b)

Narrator: And the king of Syria said,

(2 Kings 5:5a)

King of Syria: "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel."

(2 Kings 5:5b)

(Action: the king of Syria hands Naaman the scroll.)

Narrator: So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothes.

(Action: Naaman moves over to the king of Israel and hands him the scroll. The king of Israel opens and looks at it.)

Narrator: And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read,

(2 Kings 5:6a)

King of Syria: "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy."

(2 Kings 5:6b)

Narrator: And when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes.

(2 Kings 5:7a)

(Action: King of Israel rips his shirt open.)

King of Israel: "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me."

(2 Kings 5:7b)

Narrator: But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent to the king, saying,

(2 Kings 5:8a)

Elisha: "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come now to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel."

(2 Kings 5:8b)

Narrator: So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's house.

(2 Kings 5:9)

(Action: Naaman moves over and stands beyond Elisha's messenger.)

Narrator: And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, *(2 Kings 5:10a)*

Messenger: "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." *(2 Kings 5:10b)*

Narrator: But Naaman was angry and went away, *(2 Kings 5:11a)*

(Action: Naaman stomps forward.)

Naaman: "Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" *(2 Kings 5:11b-12a)*

(Action: Naaman stomps back to his seat and sits down.)

Narrator: So he turned and went away in a rage. *(2 Kings 5:12b)*

Pause.

Narrator: But his servants came near and said to him, *(2 Kings 5:13a)*

Servant: "My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? He has actually said to you, 'Wash, and be clean!'" *(2 Kings 5:13b)*

Narrator: So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, *(2 Kings 5:14a)*

(Action: Naaman stands up, steps forward, and knee bends seven times.)

Narrator: and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy. *(2 Kings 5:14b)*

(Action: Naaman and his servant go stand beyond Elisha's messenger.)

Narrator: Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, *(2 Kings 5:15a)*

Naaman: "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel." *(2 Kings 5:15b)*

Concluded.