

JOIN THE JOURNEY™

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

2 KINGS 5

WEEK 42

“Having Expectations”

2 Kings 5:11-12

“Naaman went away angry. He said, ‘Look, I thought for sure he would come out, stand there, invoke the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the area, and cure the skin disease. The rivers of Damascus, the Abana and Pharpar, are better than any of the waters of Israel! Could I not wash in them and be healed?’ So he turned around and went away angry.”

❖ ICE BREAKER

1. Think of one or two instances in your life where your expectations were not fulfilled. New job opportunity? Entering into marriage? Having your first child? Joining a new church? A new friendship? Purchasing a house?
2. Did you realize you had the expectations in the first place? What were your feelings and emotions when these things occurred? Disappointment? Frustration? Why do you think you felt this way? How did you react in this situation, and what consequences resulted from your reaction?

❖ DISCUSSION

3. What were some of Naaman’s expectations regarding Elisha’s healing process? (Ch. 5 v. 10) How do you think Naaman’s expectations were formed? (Ch. 5 v. 3) Where do expectations typically come from in our lives? How are they formed?
4. Read through Naaman’s reaction one more time. (Ch. 5 v. 11-12) Once Naaman realized his expectations had not been met, what other characteristics caused him to react the way that he did? Expectations by themselves are not the problem. It’s how we react when those expectations are not met. What causes poor reactions for you? Is it pride? Is it desire for control? Is it lack of trust?
5. What caused Naaman to change his heart toward Elisha and God? (Ch. 5 v. 13-14) What can be done to alter our reactions when expectations are failed? Accountable relationships? Obedience? Flexibility with God and people? Other?

❖ CASE STUDY

Based upon what we just studied in 2 Kings 5, how would you respond to the following situation?

You have a friend (a follower of Christ) who was recently married to a fellow believing woman. During the engagement period you heard several comments from him about all of the fun trips they would take together once married. He would also talk about his desire to have his wife stay at home instead of being in the workplace. Your friend and his wife have hit a frustrating wall and fight on a regular basis because of failed expectations in these two areas. Your friend came into the marriage with some significant credit card debt that has prevented them from going on any vacation in the past two years. In addition, they have unexpectedly become pregnant. Unfortunately, his wife is unable to quit her job once the child is born because of their financial situation.

Your friend comes to you complaining about how miserable he is in his marriage. He does not speak highly of his wife and puts pressure on her to work longer hours to help out with the finances.

How can you counsel your friend in this situation? What scripture can you show him to react properly with his failed expectations? What examples from your own life can help him regain perspective into this situation?

