# Will God Save Anyone?

## Small Leader Study Guide

Date: October 7, 2018

Series: The kings and the King: Season 4 (2 Kings)

Bible Text: 2 Kings 5:1-27

## Overview

What is offensive to you? Sometimes its the sight of something or perhaps the smell; other times it is the words someone says or how they treat you. Bottom line, we all have things other people do that offend us.

This week, we look at the story of Naaman, the commander of the Syrian army. Naaman is an important, powerful man who is to be both feared and respected. Naaman is also a leper.

We have little experience with leprosy in modern times (thank God!), but in Bible times, leprosy was a dreaded and awful disease.

Through the witness and testimony of a young Jewish girl, a captive, who is serving in Naaman’s home, he is led to Elisha, the man of God in Israel with the promise of healing. As the text unfolds, we see that Naaman’s pride almost prevented him from following the simple instructions of Elisha that would bring about healing. Fortunately, Naaman humbled himself, followed Elisha’s simply instructions, and was healed.

This is a beautiful picture of a many who receives physical healing from a dreaded physical disease, but it is also a beautiful picture of salvation, and if we will humble ourselves, believe in the simple message of the gospel, and repent, we will be saved. In the second part of our lesson, we will look at the offense of the gospel today. Yes, it is simple truth, but by its very nature, the gospel is offensive. This is especially true in our country today. In fact, I argue in this lesson that there is nothing more offensive than the exclusivity of the gospel.

How do we then challenge our culture with the gospel while minimizing the offense of the gospel? How do we overcome the assertion that the gospel is bigoted, racist, and hate speech? These are the questions we will examine this week as we consider the look at 2 Kings 5 and then various Scriptures from the New Testament.

## Introduction

Can you think of a time when you were greatly offended? What offended you? Was it a legitimate offense or were you being oversensitive?

Have you ever unintentionally offended someone? Looking back, what did you learn from that experience?

Looking back at your notes from this week’s sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

\*\*This Week’s Memory **Verse**

Romans 9:33–As it is written: “Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”

## Digging Deeper

1. Summarize what is happening in 2 Kings 5.
2. What is leprosy and what is its significance in the Bible?
3. What sin almost kept Naaman from being healed of his leprosy?
4. How was Naaman healed from his leprosy?

Application for Christians Today

1. We saw in today’s text that leprosy was an offensive disease in Bible times. What is an offense in today’s culture?
2. What, in your opinion, is the single greatest offense a Christian can state in today’s culture?
3. How does the attempt to silence “offensive speech” affect Christians in America today?
4. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to be a gospel witness in a hostile culture? Share with your group and as a group, pray for courage and faith in the days ahead.

## Next Steps

Questions to consider as you continue to reflect on what you learned this week:

* Take Action: Understanding that the gospel is an offense to many, we also must echo Paul’s assertion and not be ashamed of the gospel (Romans 1:16). Why? Because it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes in it.
* Take Courage: We are not the first generation to live in a time when the gospel was considered an offense. Yet, throughout time, Jesus continues to build His church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it (Matthew 16:18).

Work to memorize this week’s memory verse.

**This week’s Core Belief is Jesus Christ** (John 1:12): We believe in Jesus Christ, His deity, virgin birth, sinless life, vicarious death, burial and bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of the Father and His personal future return in power and glory. We are significant only because of our position as children of God.

**Take Home Truth** is God loves all peoples, and saves anyone who trusts in Him alone.

Remember to use the Daily Bible Reading plan as part of your walk with Christ, taking the time to reflect on each passage and what it means for your lives.