

# GOD SPEAKS

## READ 2 KINGS 5:1-19

*This Word from God is excerpted from a study prepared by Rev. Dr. William Schumacher for **God's Sending Heart**, Study 12, "The Obscure Missionary." Download the entire devotion and book at [thegreatsending.org](http://thegreatsending.org).*

This story of Naaman being cured of his leprosy is one of the oddest, most memorable, most surprising stories in the Old Testament. Certainly, one of the oddest missionary stories!

The Gentile, Naaman, hears some good news not from the prophet Elisha, but from an obscure, unnamed Israelite girl, taken as a slave in war, a servant in Naaman's household. She is actually the one God used to set this story in motion.

We don't know how much theology the Israelite girl know. Maybe not much! Did she know the Torah? Had she finished her catechetical instruction before she was captured and dragged off into slavery in Syria? We don't know. But she knew that there was hope with the God of Israel.

The obscure, anonymous girl's word of hope set great things in motion... Naaman is cleansed and healed, immediately and perfectly, through ordinary means delivered by an obscure missionary girl and an off-stage prophet.

Naaman was healed, and he knew it was YHWH, the God of Israel, who had done the impossible for him. He even says that from now on he will only offer sacrifices to Yahweh, the LORD: ***There is no God in all the earth but in Israel... [I] will not offer burnt offerings or sacrifice to any god but the LORD.***

God is still at work in odd and unexpected ways, doing amazing things in ways we do not expect and that are not under our control... And the word about [God's] surprising salvation is still spreading... We don't know everything we ought to know. We don't do everything right. But we know He has made us clean and given us life as no other god can do. There is no other god in all the earth except this One. There is no name in Heaven or on Earth by which we are saved except for the name of Jesus.

His astonishing salvation is still at work on us and through us. And who can say what will happen now?

*O Lord, our Healer and Savior, thank You for all the many obscure messengers who point us to You as our one and only hope! Make us ready in all circumstances to share that hope with the people we meet who so desperately need it! Amen.*

2 Kings  
5:14

Naaman went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, according to the command of the man of God. Then his skin was restored and became like the skin of a small boy, and he was clean.

## CALL TO PRAYER

Luke 10:2

The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

**SET YOUR ALARM FOR 10:02**

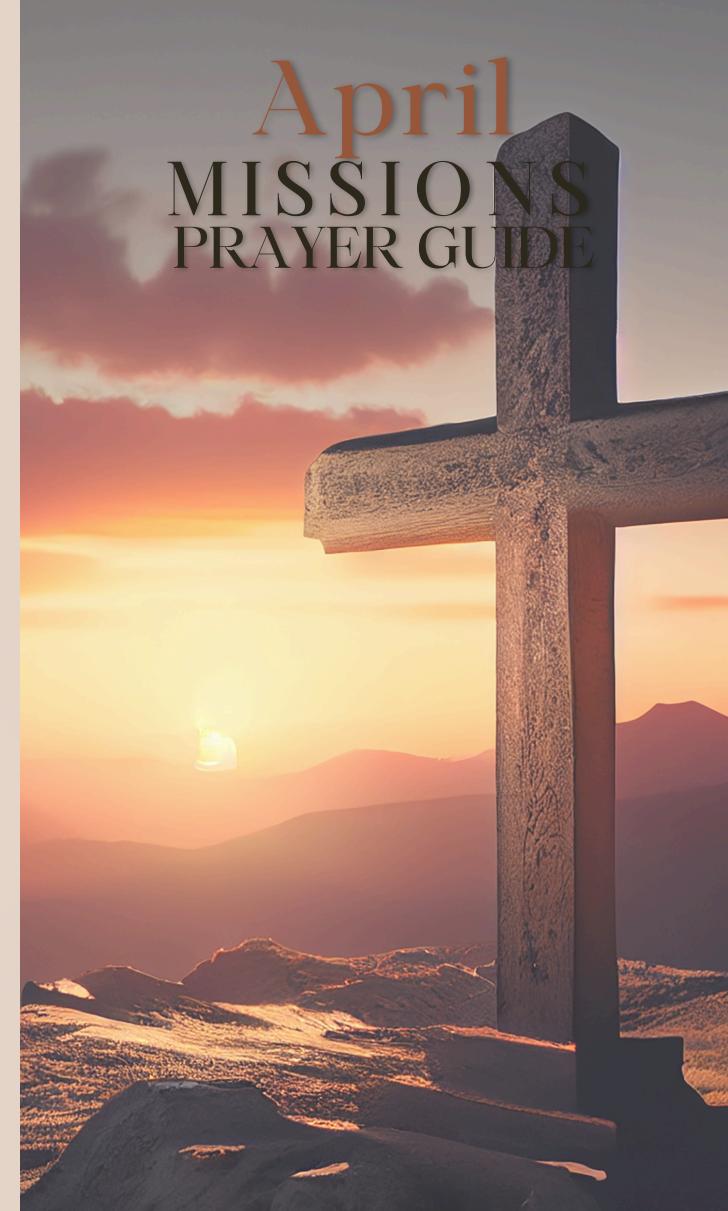


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# April MISSIONS PRAYER GUIDE



**EQUIP, EMPOWER, ENGAGE,  
CONNECTING PEOPLE TO JESUS.**



1

Lord Jesus, I feel so unqualified - uneducated and untrained- to share the Good News with my neighbors, friends, and even my family. Yet, Your Word shows me the boldness of the disciples who were influential because they had been with You. Jesus, as I spend time with you, give me the boldness and confidence to share my faith story and Your story too.

2

**Maundy Thursday** - Lord Jesus, today I think of Your holy body and precious blood, given and shed for me, and I thank You for Your loving sacrifice! Bless all who participate today in this feast of love!

3

**Good Friday** - Jesus, draw me to Your cross today; bless me with forgiveness, healing, and Your perfect peace. Give me opportunities to share these gifts with others.

4

**Holy Saturday** - Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God, and Son of Man! Glory and honor, Praise, adoration. Now and forevermore be Thine!

5

**EASTER SUNDAY** - He lives, all glory to His name! He lives, my Jesus, still the same. Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!

6

Thank You, Jesus, for being an ever-present Helper and Savior. You have delivered us from transferred us from a kingdom of darkness and into Your kingdom of everlasting Light!

7

Deepening my faith Lord, to be thankful for Your cross and empty Tomb! The width, length, height and depth of Your love surpasses my understanding.

8

Lord, bless my children and their children with a deep desire to seek You with all their hearts and not stray from Your instruction. Give them a deep love for Your Word, which tells Your story, and let them share that story with others.

9

Lord Jesus, open my eyes to the abundant harvest all around me. Use me to work in Your harvest fields so that the harvest will be brought safely home. Remind me to pray daily, joining with all who pray at 10:02 for the harvest, and assure me that You will answer these prayers for the sake of Your Kingdom.

10

God, I thank you today for the people you have placed in my life. Remind me to pray for them daily. Bless their work, done in Your name, their labors of love for You and one another. Give them endurance inspired by the hope we have in Jesus.

11

Thank you, Holy Spirit, for the light of Jesus, which shines from our schools into the communities they serve. Help our schools, teachers, staff, and students to reflect Your love so that others are drawn to You.

12

Lord Jesus, You have caused us to be born again to a living hope through Your resurrection from the dead to an unfading inheritance. Thank You Lord, for divine gifts of grace.

13

Lord, my life can become so busy that I don't take time for genuine relationships. Forgive me and show me opportunities to build friendships naturally - the kind that will help others through difficult times and which demonstrate Your love in Christ Jesus.

14

Lord God, keep me from doing anything today that goes against Your will; do not let me shrink from any sacrifice that Your will demands. Suggest, direct, and guide every thought and action that may glorify You and bless my neighbor.

15

**Tax Day** - Father, I pray that I would "give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's" (Mark 12:17). Use me to be good stewards to provide everything needed for those on the front lines of mission work and be faithful to my local church.

16

Today, I give thanks for our FORO Missionaries in Puerto Rico, who have a vision of planting a new Lutheran church within every 30 minutes of every Puerto Rican. I pray that you would bless this important ministry on the island!

17

Jesus, I want to sit with You and spend time getting to know Your love for me. I feel so guilty when I don't take that precious time. Forgive me! At the same time, I want to show my love through my actions, living out Your love for others. Bless me with this intimacy of conversation, closeness, and care for others to the praise of Your name!

18

Lamb of God, You are worthy, for it was Your love which purchased me through Your own blood and rose again on Easter. I join my voice today with the thousands upon thousands who have come before Your throne, bringing You honor, glory, and blessing. May my daily life and words bring honor and glory to You at all times, especially among the people I love.

19

Lord, many days it seems like we are like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, and we fail to notice Your presence in our lives. Help me to see Your presence in my life.

20

Holy Spirit, teach me to pray without ceasing for those I am discipling and for those I will disciple. Hear my prayers for my church, my community, and those who don't yet know you. Use me to disciple them in Your ways.

21

As one who is blood-bought, Lord Jesus, may my life be patterned after Yours, intentionally making disciples who, in turn, make disciple-makers.

22

Administrative Professionals Day - Today, I join our District Executive Staff to give thanks for our Administrative Professionals: Andrea Ellis, Cindy Hammerstrom, Debbie Arrington, and Tais Brekke. Bless each of them and bring them joy as they serve You in our Florida-Georgia District.

23

Holy Spirit, help me to be a good listener and observer of those in my family and friends so that You can use me to influence their walk with Jesus. Show me the value of taking time to be with others, loving them at all times, in all situations.

24

O Lord, I love Your Word! By it, You instruct, correct, and show me how I can live to please You and witness to others. There, You show me what You have done for me and motivate me to please You with my life. Help me to be intentional about this and use this time to fill my mind with Your will, aligning my heart with Your ways.

25

Lord Jesus, give me a hunger for Your Word that is never fully satisfied but always yearns for more! Help me to love and to live the Scriptures as You did.

26

Holy Spirit, grant wisdom and confidence to school leaders, teachers, and support staff. Fill them with love for those whom they serve.

27

Lord, I want to help others in their discipleship lives. Teach me to be curious; give me a genuine desire to learn the life stories of others so that I may know them better and help them grow as disciples who make disciples.

28

Lord, often when I read Your Word, I forget what I just read and move on to the next thing. Show me how to apply it to my life, my goals, and my relationships, following You, Jesus, one step at a time.

29

Holy Spirit, help me to speak the truth in love to my family and friends. Use me to humbly help them practice obedience to Your word, taking practical steps to respond to what You tell us there.

30

Lord Jesus, You give a beautiful hope and promise that all who believe in You will have eternal life. I thank You for that gift! Use me to share it with people in my life.