



## LEADER DEVOTIONAL

“That is too good to be true.” That is what I told my younger brother. Many years ago I received a letter informing me that I won a new flat screen television. Chances are you have received similar pieces of solicitation mail. My younger brother was excited and thought I was a fool to toss away this opportunity to get a free television. I told him to read the fine print, and after that failed to convince him that there was a “catch,” he decided to visit the car dealership himself clutching the postcard in his hand. He arrived back a few hours later, not with a new T.V., but a cheap digital watch you could buy at the Dollar Store. That day he learned that when something seems too good to be true, it usually is...but not always.

In today's Bible story, the Aramean Army Commander, Naaman, almost walked away from something that was too good to be true — the healing of his leprosy. When his servant suggested that he go see the Prophet Elisha, Naaman was disappointed that Elisha did not even bother to come out to talk with him. There was no long flowery prayer and no elaborate waving of hands. His messenger simply told Naaman to, “go and wash yourself seven times in the Jordan River.” That seemed too easy and Naaman stomped off in anger until his servant convinced him to simply obey. In this case, what seemed too good to be true was true — Naaman was healed of his disease!

Driven by a love beyond our comprehension, God has offered us all healing from the disease of sin. His solution is simple: “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved” (Acts 16:31). Naaman went back to Elisha and tried to pay him for his healing, but Elisha refused to take money for something that was intended to be a gift from God. Gifts are meant to be received, not purchased. Ephesians 2:8 says it perfectly: “God’s grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn’t come from anything you do. It is God’s gift.”

As you prepare to teach children this foundational truth, reflect on your own salvation. Because of God’s grace, you are healed. You are no longer a slave to sin, but an adopted child of God. Through faith you received this gift and now you have the privilege, like Naaman’s servant, to point others to it.

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## Sunday Check-In

Sunday morning check-in to build connection, encourage spiritual growth, and reinforce our expectations upstairs.

### 1. Check-In (5–7 min):

Ask each child:

- What was a high from your week?
- What was a low from your week?
- Any prayer requests?

(Feel free to share your own too!)

### 2. Rule Reminder (2–3 min):

Go over our 3 rules for upstairs:

1. Respect God – Worship, listen, use kind words
2. Respect People – Be kind, share, follow leaders
3. Respect the Building – Take care of the space & supplies

Thanks for leading with love and consistency!

