

CHAPTER FIVE
VERSES &

EVENTS

COLORING BOOK ALL-STARS

TODAY'S VERSES

2 KINGS 5:1
JUDGES 6:12
JUDGES 11:1

1 SAMUEL 16:18
2 KINGS 5:2

JEREMIAH 29:4-7
2 KINGS 5:3-19
JOHN 4:23-24

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE...

The next
Serve Santa Maria is
8/29 from 9a-1p. Email
Saunders@ourelement.org
for more info or sign up
at the Welcome Center.

SERVE SANTA MARIA

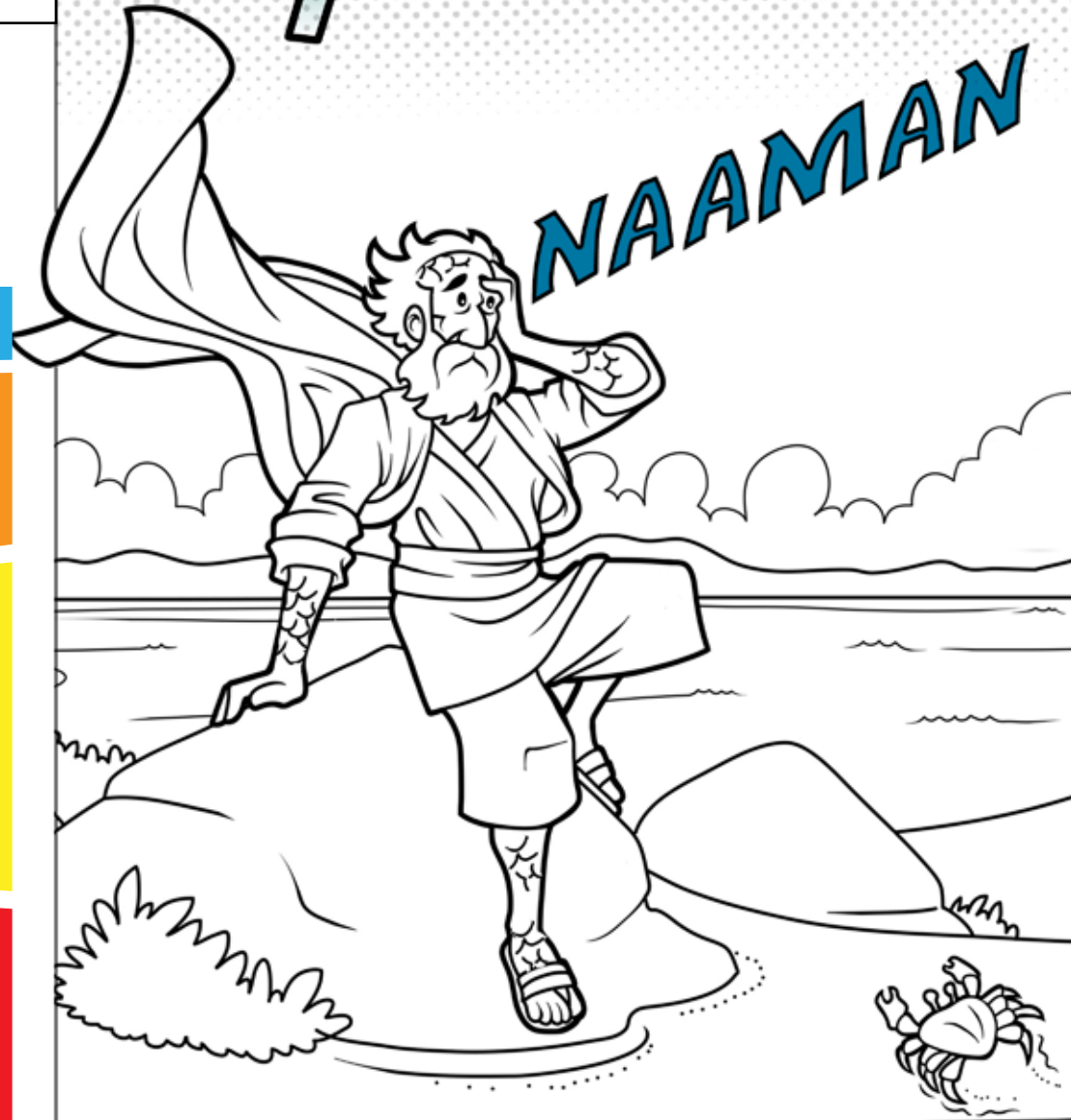
...Will be Sunday, 9/6 at 1pm.

If you're interested in being
baptized or would like more
information, come to our
short meeting TODAY after
each service.

BAPTISMS! & LABOR DAY BBQ!

The Women of Element
are planning a Bunco party
August 7th here at Element!
Grab your girlfriends for a
night of fun! Sign up at the
Welcome Center

LADIES BUNCO!!



Read 2 Kings 5:1-19

Welcome to our series called Coloring Book All-Stars where we talk about famous people in the Bible. Today will be different as we are looking at a non-Israelite. Some of you may have heard of him, but many of you probably haven't. You may be wondering why this man is a Coloring Book All-Star if we don't know who he is...the answer is that Aaron thinks he should be one, so he is including him. His name is Naaman and the story takes place in 2 Kings 5. The story is full of surprises and odd requests, but it is also a story of God finding His people.

Who do you think is the greatest man (or woman) you know? Why do you believe they are great?

In the Bible, Naaman is called a "great man." "Great man" is a title that is very rare in the Bible and only a few people were ever called this, Gideon, Jephthah, and David. Being called a "great man" was a big deal.

Do you find yourself praying for your enemies?

Read Jeremiah 29:4-7

God calls us to love everyone, not just our friends, because He loves them. God wants us to be a blessing to all people, no matter where we are.

What is one of the most ridiculous requests you have ever received?

The story of Naaman is filled with odd requests as God uses great storytelling to flip all conventional wisdom on its head. People reading the story in 2 Kings would not expect:

- A pagan man to have more faith in God than Israel's king
- A great man to have to go wash in the Jordan River.
- Naaman asking the prophet for forgiveness when he has to bow in Rimmon's temple.

Why do you think it is significant that Elisha gave Naaman something simple to do rather than something "great?"

Naaman was a "great man," he wanted to do great things to prove that he was worthy to be healed, however, God wanted something else. God did not ask Naaman to prove himself, but to humble himself.

Do you find yourself trying to prove yourself to God? In what areas?

Naaman is like us, he tries to earn God's love rather than receive it as a gift. Naaman has his own expectations for how God will fit into his story, but God does not "fit" into other people's stories. When God acts, He acts in a way that surprises every one. He asks us to humble ourselves, not to prove ourselves. The request to bathe in the Jordan was offensive to Naaman because he wants to prove himself worthy.

After Naaman is healed he tries to give God's prophet a gift, but the prophet refuses. Naaman knows that there is no God in the world except the God of Israel. But he still has a lot to learn.

Why do you think it is important for Elisha to not accept Naaman's gifts either time?

Why is it hard for us to accept God's gifts?

What Naaman does not understand is that God's gifts are free, there is nothing we can do that will earn God's blessing. God is gracious, and He gives with an open hand. We cannot buy or earn God's gifts. We receive them out of God's grace towards us. The story of Naaman and Elisha is a story of false gods who are worshiped only in specific locations because they can't move, versus a GOD who can be worshiped anywhere.

Read 2 Kings 5:18-19

Do you think there are holy and unholy places? Can God use these places for His glory?

Jesus went places that the culture said He was not supposed to go. He ate with prostitutes, sinners, sinful men and women, and as a result we get to experience the joy of full salvation. We need to be seeking and serving the lost in the world in which we live.