



## **“Choosing the Low Road”**

### **FLOW**

#### **Small Group Plan**

##### **2 Samuel 22:28**

*You save the humble,  
but your eyes are on the haughty to bring them low.*

##### **2 Chronicles 7:14**

*If my people, who are called by my name,  
will humble themselves and pray and seek my face  
and turn from their wicked ways,  
then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

##### **Psalms 18:27**

*You save the humble  
but bring low those whose eyes are haughty.*

##### **Psalms 25:9**

*He guides the humble in what is right  
and teaches them his way.*

##### **Psalms 147:6**

*The LORD sustains the humble  
but casts the wicked to the ground.*

##### **Isaiah 66:2**

*This is the one I esteem:  
he who is humble and contrite in spirit,  
and trembles at my word.*

##### **1 Peter 5:5-6**

*All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another,  
because, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”  
Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand,  
that he may lift you up in due time.*

## OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- What is the over-all message of the above verses?
- Why does God want to bring the prideful “low”?

## LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

### **A PICTURE OF LOVE**

#### **2 Kings 5:1-3**

<sup>1</sup> Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the LORD had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy. <sup>2</sup> Now bands from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman’s wife. <sup>3</sup> She said to her mistress, “If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.”

- What motivated this unnamed young slave girl to want to help Naaman?
- Why doesn’t anger and bitterness fill her heart instead?

### **A PICTURE OF FEAR**

#### **2 Kings 5:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. <sup>5</sup> “By all means, go,” the king of Aram replied. “I will send a letter to the king of Israel.” So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing. <sup>6</sup> The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: “With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy.” <sup>7</sup> As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, “Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!”

- Why was Joram, the king of Israel, so afraid?
- How could someone in such a high place of leadership have less courage and confidence in God than someone much lower in status and in much worse circumstances?

### **A PICTURE OF PRIDE**

#### **2 Kings 5:8-12**

<sup>8</sup> When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: “Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel.” <sup>9</sup> So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha’s house. <sup>10</sup> Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, “Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your

*flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed.”<sup>11</sup> But Naaman went away angry and said, “I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy.<sup>12</sup> Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than any of the waters of Israel? Couldn’t I wash in them and be cleansed?” So he turned and went off in a rage.*

- What did Naaman reveal about himself by taking so much gold, silver and clothing (v. 5)?
- Naaman said, “I thought ...” (v. 11)  
Why did he want healing on his own terms?
- How does his desire to be right undercut his desire to be healed?

### **A PICTURE OF HUMILITY** **2 Kings 5:13-15**

<sup>13</sup> *Naaman’s servants went to him and said, “My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, ‘Wash and be cleansed!’”<sup>14</sup> So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.<sup>15</sup> Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, “Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel.”*

- Why does the man who “went off in a rage” now listen to his servants?
- Why does Naaman go a step beyond his healing and make a public commitment to God?

#### **USE IT / APPLY IT ...**

- **Servant Girl:**  
How does God use UTR (under the radar) Christians today to represent him to a diseased and dying world?
- **Joram:**  
How does fear blind us to the big picture going on around us?
- **Naaman In Charge:**  
How can confidence easily become pride?
- **Naaman At Rest:**  
How can humility lead to genuine confidence?
- **Baptism:**  
Why did you obey God’s simple command to wash and be clean?
- Close in prayer thanking God for our Jordan River cleansing – our baptism.