Naaman was brave.

Naaman was strong.

Naaman was clever.

Naaman was a soldier.

He was the soldier in charge of all the soldiers in Aram.

But

Naaman had a skin disease

An itchy, nasty, ouch-y, ugly skin disease.

Naaman was NOT one of God’s people

Naaman was fighting God’s people

And his soldiers had kidnapped one of God’s people

A young girl.

That young girl was now Mrs Naaman’s servant.

That young girl said to Mrs Naaman

“If only Naaman would go and see the messenger Elisha.

God’s messenger could cure him of his skin disease

his itchy, nasty, ouch-y, ugly skin disease.”

Mrs Naaman told Naaman and Naaman told the king of Aram

“Go on then” said the king of Aram “Here’s a letter for the king of Israel”

The king of Israel read the letter from the king of Aram

**I am sending Naaman to you, so you can cure him of his skin disease**

**His itchy, nasty, ouch-y, ugly skin disease.**

“Argh!” said the king of Israel “I’m not God; I can’t do that!”

God’s messenger Elisha heard what the king of Israel had said and sent him a message

**Don’t panic! Just send Naaaman to me.**

**Then he will know that God’s messenger is here.**

So Naaman went to Elisha’s house

He knocked on the door

and Elisha didn’t answer!

Instead Elisha sent his servant with a message

“Go and wash seven times in the River Jordan

Then your skin disease will be gone

and you won’t feel itchy, nasty, ouch-y and ugly anymore.”

Naaman was cross.

Naaman was mad.

Naaman was furious.

“I thought God’s messenger would wave his hand over me and make me better right away”

said Naaman

“I don’t want to wash in a stinky river in Israel.

I could have stayed at home and washed in a nice river there

If that’s all that God is going to do for me”

Naaman’s servants said to him:

“If God’s messenger had told you to do something really hard

really complicated

really dangerous

Wouldn’t you have done it?

But since all he’s told you

is wash and be clean

couldn’t you do something that easy?”

So Naaman thought about it.

He decided he could do something that easy

and he went to wash in the river Jordan.

He washed once. twice, three times, four times,

five times, six times

seven times

And when he came up out of the water he wasn’t

itchy, nasty, ouch-y and ugly anymore his skin was brand new.

“God has healed my itchy, nasty, ouch-y and ugly skin disease” shouted Naaman

“Now I know that there is only one God in all the world.”

Naaman asked Elisha if he could take some of Israel’s earth back to Aram

so that he could worship God on Israel’s land.

God had made Naaman all better from his itchy, nasty, ouch-y, ugly skin disease

But he had also given him a brand new heart,

by getting rid of the nasty and ugly idea that Naaman was the best

Now Naaman knew God was the best.

One day God would send his true king to Israel and to the whole world

This true king would be able to heal people from their itchy, nasty, ouch-y, ugly skin diseases

But more importantly he would be able to heal people’s hearts

and make them brand new.