



BRAVE WOMEN RUN IN MY FAMILY

SISTERHOOD CONNECT STUDY 12

NAAMAN'S WIFE'S MAID - COMPASSIONATE

"She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." (2 Kings 5:3)

Naaman's wife's maid was a prisoner and a slave. She had been dragged from her homeland, her family and friends to a strange land with alien gods in a Syrian raid. She had no expectation of ever returning and there is no reason to assume that her master was kind. What would you expect her response to be to this man who was her enemy and who had ruined her life? But her role in this story is pivotal as she demonstrated what it means to love our enemies.

Three lessons we learn from her story are that:

- **She felt compassion for her enemy's suffering**
- **She chose to demonstrate love**
- **She shared her faith in God's goodness**

Discuss the following questions:

- **Read Matthew 5:43-48.** Jesus was teaching his disciples not just to do what anyone would do for their friends but to be indiscriminate in their love like their heavenly Father. What do you find most challenging about this passage?
- **Read Romans 5:8.** What does this tell us about the way that God loves?
- **Read 2 Kings 5:1-5,** Who do you need to look at with eyes of compassion to see their humanity and their need? Are there particular types of people that you find hard to love?
- **Read Luke 6:27, 28.** How have you tangibly loved your enemies? (e.g. done good to them, blessed them, prayed for them)



Note: This does not mean putting yourself in a position where you can be abused by them.

- **Read 2 Kings 5:6-19.** What was the result of the slave girl's compassion in Naaman's life?
- **Read Luke 4:27-30.** Jesus, when he made it clear that the gospel was for everyone, used the example of Naaman which offended those listening. Share a time when you have shared the good news of the gospel with someone who you do not like or relate to naturally.
- **Read 1 John 4:19.** How does God's love enable us to love?

Activity: Look for an opportunity this week to do good to someone that you find it hard to love.

Pray: Pray for the grace to love your enemies.

PASTORAL CARE

We have a pastoral care team at church to walk alongside people in your group who may be going through a tough time.

Please contact the church office Sydney 02 8853 5353, Melbourne 03 9720 2099, Brisbane 07 3422 8500 or Newcastle 02 4927 1888 to let us know of anybody in your group (with their permission) who have sickness, death of a loved one, marriage challenges, surgeries.

