Lesson Plan: “Trust in God and His Prophet”

Objectives:
- Emphasize what we can learn from the story of Elisha and Naaman
- Talk about what trusting in God looks like in our lives.

Reinforces Principle of:
- Trust in God
- Faith in God

Each lesson contains 5 timed activities:

(Choose the activities that fit your family’s schedule. Additional resources are provided as extra time may be available.)

Reverence Time: Song, prayer, scripture and video clip
Lesson Time: Lesson summary and points to ponder
Story Time: Story
Activity Time: Object lesson or activity
Treat Time: Prayer, theme related recipe & music video
Approximate Time: 5 minutes

Sing Together: Hymn #21 “Come, Listen to a Prophet’s Voice.”

If you wish to have an online music file to accompany you visit: http://www.lds.org/cm
(Note: Navigate to the Interactive Church Music Player where you can listen to and print Church hymns and children’s songs.)

Prayer:

Scripture Time: Proverbs 3:5–6

5. Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Video Clip: Watch chapters 8 & 10 from the animated Complete Learning System, Elisha DVD. (Video clip is also provided for viewing online.)
Lesson Summary:

What does it mean to trust in God? (Discuss ideas.)

“You will gather the fruits of faith as you follow the principles God has established for its use. One of these principles is trust in God and in His willingness to provide help when needed, no matter how challenging the circumstance.” Richard G. Scott, Ensign, May 2003 © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.

God has provided both past prophets and a living prophet to help us. If we have trust in God, we will have trust in His prophets.

Did the little Israelite maid have trust in God and His prophet Elisha to heal Naaman? (See 2 Kings 5:2–4. Discuss ideas.)

Why didn’t Naaman trust in Elisha’s instructions to cure his leprosy? (See 2 Kings 5:10–12. Discuss ideas.)

“Naaman, the Syrian captain who, constrained by his pride, hesitated to obey the counsel of Elisha, which was too simple, in his eyes, to cure his leprosy.” Gérald Caussé, Ensign, Nov 2008 © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.

Why did Naaman need to be humbled before he could be healed? (Discuss ideas.)

After Naaman was humbled he showed his trust in the Lord by doing exactly what Elisha told him to do, “Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.” (2 Kings 5:13–14). When Naaman obeyed he showed his change of heart and trust in God through His prophet to heal him.

“Naaman’s cleansing was not only physical; his spiritual flesh also was cleansed when he accepted this beautiful lesson in humility and trust.” Gérald Caussé, Ensign, Nov 2008 © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.

What can we learn from Naaman’s change of heart and healing? (Discuss ideas.)

“Every one of us needs to know that we can go on during difficult times in the strength of the Lord. ... We must trust in the Lord and if we give ourselves freely to Him, our burdens will be lifted and our hearts will be consoled.” W. Craig Zwick, Liahona, Nov 2003 © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.
Points to Ponder:

How do we learn to trust in the Lord? (Discuss ideas.)

“Learn of me, and listen to my words; walk in the meekness of my Spirit, and you shall have peace in me. ... And thou shalt do it with all humility, trusting in me, reviling not against revilers. ... Pray always, and I will pour out my Spirit upon you” (D&C 19:23, 30, 38).

What power did Elisha use to heal Naaman? (The power of God.)

Have you ever trusted in God to heal you or someone you love through His Priesthood? (Share experiences.)

If we put our trust in the Lord, will He always heal us like He did Naaman? (Discuss ideas.)

“As we put our faith and trust in the Lord, we must battle our pain day by day and sometimes hour by hour, even moment by moment; but in the end, we understand that marvelous counsel given to the Prophet Joseph Smith as he struggled with his pain of feeling forgotten and isolated in Liberty Jail: ‘My son, peace be unto thy soul; thine adversity and thine afflictions shall be but a small moment;

‘And then, if thou endure it well, God shall exalt thee on high; thou shalt triumph over all thy foes’ (D&C 121:7–8). ... When pain, tests, and trials come in life, draw near to the Savior. Healing comes in the Lord’s time and the Lord’s way; be patient.”

Robert D. Hales, Ensign, Nov 1998 © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.

Who is the Prophet and President of the Church today in whom we can trust to lead us? (President Thomas S. Monson.)

“We have a mouthpiece to whom God does and is revealing his mind and will. God will never permit him to lead us astray. As has been said, God would remove us out of our place if we should attempt to do it. ... Do not try to find fault with the management and affairs that pertain to him alone and by revelation through his prophet—his living prophet, his seer, and his revealer.” Harold B. Lee, address delivered to seminary and institute faculty, Brigham Young University, 8 July 1968

Quotes:

“Heavenly Father has promised that we can trust our prophet to always tell us right things, things He wants us to know. ... When we do what the prophet asks us to do, we are doing what Heavenly Father wants us to do and we can be sure that He will bless us when we do.”

Diane S. Nichols, Friend, February 2001 © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.

“Sometimes it is necessary to be obedient even when we do not understand the reason for the law. We might call this ‘faith obedience.’ ‘Faith obedience’ is a matter of trust. The question is simple: Do we trust our Heavenly Father? Do we trust our prophets?”

R. Conrad Schultz, Liahona, Jul 2002 © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.
When Thomas turned the corner on his way home from school he saw Father’s car parked in the driveway. “Why is Dad home from work so early?” he thought to himself. The answer came in the form of dreadful thoughts racing through his mind. Panic wrenched his chest as he ran toward home. Thomas paused at the back door just long enough to catch his breath before pushing it open.

“Dad!?” Thomas called, as he ran from room to room in search of his parents, “Mom!? Where are you?”

When no one immediately returned his calls, tears filled his eyes, temporarily blinding him. “Where are you?” he cried.

Before rising from her knees, Mother gave Father a hug and whispered in his ear, “We’re going to make it through this. If we put our trust in the Lord.”

Carefully closing the den door behind her, Mother went in search of her frantic son. “What is it, Thomas?” she cooed. “What’s wrong? Are you hurt, Son?”

Thomas wiped his tears on his sleeve. “I was, I was worried” he stammered. “When I saw Dad’s car home early, I thought something had happened to you. Like Bree’s Mom.”

“I’m sorry you were frightened,” Mother answered. “But, see,” she said, holding her dress out and turning in a circle and then bending down in a curtsy, “I’m just fine, Sir Thomas.”

Thomas giggled at Mother’s antics, temporarily forgetting his worries, but then fear struck again. “Is there something wrong with Dad?”

Concern crossed Mother’s face. “Dad’s going to be okay,” she said, “but, he’s going to need a lot of support and love right now.” Mother then explained to Thomas that the factory where Father worked was closing. “We knew this was coming, but we were praying that he would find something else before they let him go,” Mother continued.

“Heavenly Father didn’t answer your prayers?” Thomas asked with disbelief. “But, Sister Mitchell said Heavenly Father answers every prayer. Why didn’t he answer yours?”

“She’s right, Thomas. Heavenly Father does answer every prayer, but He answers in a way that the Lord knows will help us the most.”

“But, wouldn’t Dad finding another job help us most?” Thomas worried.
“Well, that’s what we thought, but I trust Heavenly Father to know best,” Mother answered.

“But, Mom. What about Matthew? How will we pay for his mission?” Thomas fretted, while holding his tummy and rocking. “Oh, why didn’t I save my money instead of buying those stupid basketball shoes.”

Mother looked at her youngest child with concern. Ten years spanned between him and their next youngest, Matthew, who was now serving a mission in Spain. “Oh, Honey, you have always faithfully given towards your brother’s mission,” Mother reminded Thomas. “You deserve to buy something for yourself once in a while. And look how practical you were; Instead of buying a toy like most ten-year-old boys, you bought shoes!”

“But, Mom. You still haven’t told me what we are going to do,” Thomas pleaded.

“Well, first of all, you don’t need to worry about Matthew’s mission fund. Before going on his mission, Matthew sold his car and put the money in the bank for just such emergencies. Secondly, this family has always tried to listen to the Prophet. We have food storage and savings. And we are going to continue to pray and trust the Lord to guide us.”

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Father arose from his knees after the Spirit whispered, “His words are My words.” Father picked up the November Ensign and scanned the table of contents. His heart leaped when he read, “Be of Good Cheer.” Sitting down in his favorite chair, he turned to the talk by President Thomas S. Monson. Tears glistened in Father’s eyes as he read the words of the Prophet and hope filled his soul.

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Mother quietly opened the door and peeked into the den. “Come on in,” Father said, looking up from the magazine. I have something to share with you.

Mother entered the room with Thomas following her. Father looked at Thomas and then gave Mother a questioning look. She nodded her head, giving Father the signal that she had filled Thomas in on the situation.

“Hi, Thomas,” Father said. “How’s my little Worry Wart?”

“Not so good, Dad. I’ve got that pang right here in my tummy again.”

“You know, Thomas, I had that same pang right here in my tummy, too,” Father said, pointing. “But, I prayed and Heavenly Father answered my prayers and when I put my trust in Him and His Prophet the pang went away.”

“Really?” Thomas asked hopefully, “Did Heavenly Father tell you where to find a new job?”

Father shook his head, “No.” “But, listen to the words of the Lord’s living Prophet. During the April 2009 conference, President Monson said, ‘... fear not. Be of good cheer. The future is as bright as your faith. ...’”

by Margie Nauta Lee
What you need:
A copy of the “Trust in Him” activity, scissors, laminating sheet, red acrylic paint and a bucket of muddy water.

Preparation
1. Print, cut out and laminate the artwork.
2. Cut out artwork again—leaving at least a quarter inch boarder to create a seal so the figure of Naaman can be dipped in water without seeping into it.
3. Paint red spots (leprosy sores) on the character figure of Naaman.

Activity:
(Use the character figures at appropriate times to teach the children the story of Naaman’s healing)

1. Naaman was captain to the king of Syria. He was a great and mighty man, but he was a leper (2 Kings 5:1). **Ask:** What is a leper? (Discuss ideas.)

2. In Naaman’s home there was a little Israelite maid who was a servant to Naaman’s wife. She had great faith and trust in God and His prophet Elisha. She told her mistress that she knew that the prophet could heal Naaman (2 Kings 5:2–3). **Ask:** Can our faith and trust in the Lord and His Prophet help others? (Discuss ideas.)

3. Naaman went to Elisha’s house and stood at the door so that Elisha could come out and heal him (2 Kings 5:9). “Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean.” (2 Kings 5:10.)

4. But Naaman went away angry and said that he would not do what the prophet had instructed (2 Kings 5:11). **Ask:** Why was Naaman angry? (Discuss ideas. Emphasize that he was being prideful.)

5. **Ask:** How can pride affect the way we react to what the Lord’s Prophet tells us? (Discuss ideas.)

6. Naaman’s servant saw that Naaman’s pride was keeping him from being healed. He had faith in the Lord and trusted the words of the Prophet. He said, “My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it?” (2 Kings 5:13.)

7. This humbled Naaman and he accepted his servants’ advice and, “Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.” (2 Kings 5:14.) (Dip figure in water seven times [wipe any excess paint off by hand].)

8. Bear testimony of how faith & trust in the Lord and His prophets will bless our lives.
Approximate Time: 40 minutes

Prep Time: 10 minutes
Bake Time: 25–30 minutes

Raspberry Filled Cream Puff Hearts

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Bring butter, sugar, salt and 1 cup of water to a boil in a saucepan. Stir in flour, and cook over medium-high heat, stirring constantly, for three minutes. Cool for 1 minute. Add eggs one at a time to the butter mixture, beating after each egg until smooth. Flatten dough to 2–3 inches thick. Cut into heart shapes. Bake on an ungreased baking sheet until golden brown. Approximately for 25-30 minutes. Let cool. Slice each puff in half horizontally.

Read: “The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.” (Psalms 28:7.)

Treat Time: Give each family member a heart to fill with whipped cream and raspberries. Sprinkle tops with powdered sugar.

Sing: A song of praise, “We Thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet.” Hymn #19, to the Lord for giving us prophets to help us.

Closing Prayer and blessing on the food.