



Bible Character Study



from Godly Pearls

Making Jesus Christ known, one story at a time.



A NOTE TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS:

Thank you for downloading this Bible Character Study.

This first page contains different sections to help you when planning for your class, for example, Home-school, Sunday School, Bible Study, Bible Club, Mission class, etc.

We suggest that you print pages 2 - 5 and distribute them to your students.



Topic:

Gehazi – greed and its consequences.



Read the Bible References: The Bible references can be read by different children if possible. Or the teacher can read them.



Goals of Lesson:

- To describe greed and teach students to be content with what they have.



Lesson Takeaway:

Greed can get you into trouble. Learn to be happy and content with what you have. God will always provide all that you need.



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Date:



Topic:

Gehazi – greed and its consequences.



Bible References:

2 Kings 5:20 – 27.



Who was Gehazi?

Gehazi was the servant of Elisha, one of the prophets in the old testament. Gehazi usually helped Elisha and followed him around as they ministered to people.



What did Gehazi do?

Do you remember the story of Naaman, that commander of the army of the king of Syria? Well, Naaman was leprous and through the power of God working through Elisha, Naaman was healed of his leprosy. To show his gratitude, he brought some gifts for Elisha, but Elisha refused to accept the gifts. After Naaman left, Gehazi thought it was foolish for Elisha to reject the gifts, so, he chased down Naaman.

In 2 Kings 5:20-21, it says, “But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, “Look, my master has spared Naaman this Syrian, while not receiving from his hands what he brought; but as the LORD lives, I will run after him and take something from him”. So Gehazi pursued Naaman...”.

Gehazi asked Naaman to give him some of the gifts he offered earlier to Elisha and Naaman gave him more than he asked for. The sad thing was that Gehazi had to lie to Naaman about why he wanted the gifts. In 2 Kings 5:22, the bible reveals what Gehazi said. “And he said, “All is well. My master has sent me, saying, ‘Indeed, just now two young men of the sons of the prophets have come to me from the mountains of Ephraim. Please give them a talent of silver and two changes of garments.’”



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What did Gehazi do? - Continued

Oh no, there were no prophets from the mountains of Ephraim! That was Gehazi's greed speaking. And he added lies to his greed too!

After Gehazi received the gifts from Naaman, he hid them somewhere in the house and went to meet Elisha. "...Elisha said to him, "Where did you go, Gehazi?". And he said, "Your servant did not go anywhere". 2 Kings 5:25. Gehazi has just told another lie to cover up his acts!

Elisha was a very sensitive man of God. He knew that Gehazi was lying. So, Elisha said, "Did not my heart go with you when the man turned back from his chariot to meet you? Is it time to receive money and to receive clothing, olive groves and vineyards, sheep and oxen, male and female servants? Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and your descendants forever." And he went out from his presence leprous, as white as snow". 2 Kings 5:26-27.

What a sad ending for Gehazi! His greed led him to telling a lie, and then more lies to cover up. The consequences of his choices was that he became leprous.



What can we learn from Gehazi?

Gehazi was a greedy man who told many lies to get what he wanted. Greed can make you tell lies. If you want something so badly, you can resort to telling lies just to get that thing you want so badly.

Gehazi had a lot of things he could be grateful for. For example, he was healthy and not leprous like Naaman.

When you are greedy, you could even lose what you have. Gehazi lost his good health and became leprous. The consequences of his greedy choices did not stop with him but continued to his children.

You must understand that sin (greed, lies etc.) has consequences. Through the grace of God, you can say no to greed and lies and make wise choices like contentment and truth.



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What can we learn from Gehazi? - Continued

But sometimes, you can be tempted to be greedy. At such times, how can you overcome greed?

- i. Be grateful for what you have. When you look closely at what you have, you will discover that you have a lot of things you can be grateful for.
- ii. Don't be sad about what you don't have.
- iii. Don't be tempted to compare what you have with what another person has got.
- iv. Learn to give to those who don't have, and need what you have – if you have enough to give.
- v. Trust God to always give you what you need. He has promised to always provide all that you need.



Memorize:

Hebrews 13:5 - Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."



Scenario review:

Roland was rushing out of the class to meet his mother who had been waiting to pick him up from school. As he rushed past you, his bag fell to the floor. Some books, pens, his lunchbox, and a wristwatch fell out of the bag too. You have always wanted to get the same brand of wristwatch that Roland has, but your parents kept saying, "please, be patient with us". You rushed to help Roland to pick up some of his things. He thanked you for helping him and started to walk away. But he did not know that the wristwatch was still on the floor. You are standing there – next to the wristwatch that you wanted so badly. What will you do? Why did you make that choice?



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Remember: Greed can get you into trouble. Learn to be happy and content with what you have. God will always provide all that you need.



Let us pray: Dear God, thank You for all your wonderful provisions for my life and family. Help me to be content and happy with what you have given me. Help me to trust you for what I need and don't yet have. I ask these in Jesus' name, amen!



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We will like to hear from you.

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