

GREATER FAITH | 10-23-16

REFLECT & DISCUSS

There's a gap between what we expect and what we experience. Often, reality hands us something different than what we dreamed of ahead of time. We dreamed of chubby newborn cheeks and snuggles and didn't brace ourselves for sleepless nights, poopy diapers, and screaming temper tantrums. As guys, we dreamed of sex five times a week when married, but found out the sparks fly much less often than that. Unmet expectations lead to frustration. What's a recent unmet expectation that you have had? How did you handle your frustration?

READ: *2 Kings 5:1-12*

According to this Scripture, what was Naaman expecting Elisha to do? If you brought almost \$200,000 worth of silver and over \$2.7 million in gold to give as a gift to someone who would heal you and they wouldn't even come out to see you, would you be frustrated? How did Naaman express his frustration? At this point in the story, Naaman's expectations about what God should do were preventing him from experiencing what God was doing. Share about a time you felt like Naaman toward God.

READ: *2 Kings 5:13-17*

If it weren't for his officers who encouraged him to wash in the Jordan, Naaman may not have been healed. Who do you have in your corner that speaks life to you when you need it? What do you think happened in the gap between verses 13 and 14? Just before this gap, Naaman stomped off in a fit of rage. After this gap, he was washing in the river being healed. What do you think it took for him to swallow his pride and wash? Each time he went under water, Naaman learned to express his faith, not his frustration, and God healed him. What faith do you need to express today instead of frustration?

READ: *Hebrews 11:1-2*

Why is hard to be confident in something you don't have yet? When we use the word hope, it has a tinge of doubt to it..."I hope I get a raise at the end of the year, but it probably won't happen." In this passage, the word hope means "*to wait with joy and full confidence.*" How much greater would our faith be if we could have this kind of hope? Pray for each other to have greater faith like this!

CHALLENGE

Seven times, Naaman went underwater to express his greater faith in God and receive healing. Each day this week, post on social media or share with someone else one greater thing God is doing in your life.

PRAYER

"Father, empower me to break up with my backup plan, dig ditches to receive your blessing, increase my capacity, and have greater faith so that I can do greater things in Your name!"