

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

STORY

We don't know her name, but we know that through her testimony a leader and a nation came to know the saving power of the almighty God. She was just a child when she was captured by invading armies and stolen away from her family and her homeland of Israel. She was forced to serve as a maid in the home of a wealthy and important military leader in a foreign country. The name of that military leader was Naaman. Naaman was powerful and successful on the battlefield, but he could not fight his disease of leprosy.

The young girl remembered the true God and felt sorrow over her master in his illness. "Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy," the Hebrew child told Naaman's wife (2 Kings 5:3).

When the girl's words were shared, the Holy Spirit was at work, and Naaman listened and went to see the prophet Elisha. On hearing Elisha's command to wash seven times in the Jordan River, Naaman first refused. But he finally conceded, knowing he had no other hope. He was cured.

"Behold, I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel. . . . From now on your servant will not offer burnt offering or sacrifice to any god but the LORD" (2 Kings 5:15, 17).

Discuss one-on-one or in small groups the following questions.

1. Why did Naaman listen to the words of a child? *God's Spirit led him.*
2. How do you know she was a faithful child? *She trusted God even in an enemy's home.*
3. Through what means does the Holy Spirit empower you to fear, love, and trust in God above all things in obedience to the First Commandment? *Through Scripture, memorized, heard, or read and through Baptism and the Lord's Supper.*