

My Prayer for Today

Our loving Father, help us to grow and develop a faith that will carry us through both trials and good times. Help us to be faithful in whatever situation we find ourselves. May we experience the peace that comes only from You. Help us extend mercy and sympathy to all.

Sharing

God gives us the opportunity to reach out to families who are experiencing difficult times. His Spirit will help us to know how best to stretch forth our hands and hearts in acts of mercy to them. What is one way I can be a blessing to a family in my community?

Women in the Bible:
The Captive Maid
and me

Peace
and Mercy



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LESSON



The Captive Maid

Her Faith Brought a Life-Changing Experience

Women in the Bible: The Captive Maid and Me

Key Scripture: II Kings 5:1-19

Introduction

Some of the most interesting women of the Bible are not identified by name. It is their actions and beliefs that identify them. The captive maid is one of these women. The Syrians had brought back a captive maid from the Hebrews. Some of their captives were required to work in the fields. However, the captive maid was chosen to serve the wife of Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria.

This young girl was a great example of how God can use His children, even when they find themselves in less than desirable circumstances. She could have been a very bitter captive, but instead she allowed her "light for the Lord" to shine in the household of her captors.

Discover

- * Her Willingness to Help Her Mistress
- * Her Positive Attitude Despite Being a Captive
- * Her Faith in God

Going Deeper

1. The words, "brought away captive," describe her situation. What emotions does the word "captive" invoke in you? (Verse 2)

2. What words describe the age and size of the captive maid? (Verse 2)

3. What was the condition of the husband of her mistress? (Verse 1)

4. Reading between the lines, we assume the Syrian woman had taken the little captive into her confidence. What motivated the girl to suggest a treatment for Naaman? (Verse 3)

5. What was the cry of mercy from the heart of the captive maid? (Verse 3) How sure was her faith?

Note: The faithfulness shown by the captive maid in her day-to-day ministrations to her mistress surely were observed by her mistress and Naaman.

Words for Today

6. How do you think the captive maid's demeanor and faithfulness influenced Naaman?

7. What are some specific ways we can demonstrate our concern and love for others in ways that will be a reflection of the love of Christ in our hearts?

to act with mercy in sharing her belief that the power of heaven was with Elisha. Parents whose lives are a reflection of Jesus will be a blessing to their children. They will help them to develop the solid faith of the captive maid. We never know where our children will be called to serve. However, we can know that wherever they are, they have the opportunity to represent their heavenly Father.

Notes:

Questions for Discussion

1. Why do you think Naaman was willing to consider the suggestion of a servant?

2. What are some ways we can bless those we work for and with? How can we do this if we are very lowly servants? If we have high positions, such as a vice president, professor, or director? What are some of the reasons we might hesitate?

Words of Wisdom

The captive maid was a young girl, far from home and her loving parents. The training she had received at home stayed with her, and she was able to conduct herself in that heathen land as a child of God. Her peaceful faith inspired her