18 July – NATURE OF GOD – God is HEALER

God cares for us in many ways. He wants us all to be healthy and He cares about us when we get sick. In our story today we will hear how God healed a man who was very sick with a disease.

Ask your child if they remember being ill or hurt. What was it like? Who helped you?

Sometimes we have a small cut that just needs a plaster (give the plaster to your child – see if they can put it on themselves) and sometimes we need to ask God to heal us.

STORY (God heals Naaman 2 KIngs 5)

Naaman was a very important man. He was the commander of the army for the king of Syria. But he was sick with bad skin disease called leprosy. It was a very terrible sickness to get. It gave you red and white spots all over your skin, and people were very afraid to catch it from you. If you had leprosy, you would hide away and cover yourself up with your coat so no one could see you.

A little servant girl who worked in Naaman's house, told him about a man called Elisha and a God who can heal. Elisha loved God very much and believed that He could heal people.

Naaman went to see Elisha but Elisha didn't even go outside to meet him. He sent him a message:"Go to the river, and wash yourself 7 times!" Ask your child to count to seven.

Naaman was angry – he didn't want to wash himself in the dirty river! (show the picture) But Naaman's servant convinced him to do what Elisha had said. So he went to the river, and washed himself once, twice, 3 times...... nothing happened – he was still covered with sores. 4, 5, 6........and then 7 times …... just like Elisha had told him.

After the 7th time, he saw that his skin was healed – all the sores had gone!

He ran back to Elisha to thank him and said: "I know your God is the one true God. "

God had healed Naaman.

We can also trust God – and when we know people who are ill we can ask God to help them get better.

Ask your child if they know of anyone who's ill or hurting. Pray some simple prayers together, eg:

- "Father God bless ………. In Jesus name amen"
- "pain go in Jesus name"
- "Father God please heal ………. Amen"

CRAFT

Fold the card in half. Draw and colour a dirty river (brown).

Cut out and colour the figures of Naaman (draw red spots on the sad one)

Glue them onto the lollystick

Carefully cut a slit in the card where the figure of Naaman can slide through, and slide it up and down 7 times – showing the clean healed Naaman after the 7th time.