

# Expectations

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## **Look**

Have you ever picked up a glass from the kitchen counter with soda in it, took a big gulp thinking you were drinking a Coke, and discovered as it rolled past your tongue that you were drinking root beer? While the root beer is good, it always tastes funny when you are expecting coke. Life is full of events that don't match our expectations, some small and some big.

1. Share a time when something or someone didn't meet your expectations? How did you react to the mismatch of the reality vs. your expectations?
2. How do you generally handle events or situations that don't meet your expectations? Do you roll with the changes easily or do you find it hard to adapt?

## **Book 2 Kings 5:1-14**

Naaman travels a long way to be healed of his leprosy by Elisha. But, when he arrives, the interaction doesn't exactly match his expectations.

1. Why did Naaman get angry at Elisha? What was he expecting that he didn't get?
2. What did Naaman's servants say to him about his anger?
3. How did Naaman's anger almost keep him from God's healing power?

## **Took**

Expectations can be a good thing- they can help us navigate our world. But sometimes we can get so caught up in what we've imagined the outcome to be, that we're incapable of experiencing the gifts that we've been given. We are so invested in what we want God to do and how we want God to do it, that we can't fully experience the blessings and the healing that God offers to us in God's perfect way.

1. Can you describe a time when God's blessing or healing surprised you in a way that you weren't expecting?
2. In what ways are you hoping that God will work in your life right now?
3. How might you be intentional about being open to an outcome that is different from your hopes?