

# THE CATHOLIC Globe ...in the classroom

CATHOLIC CATECHESIS  
on a 'Global' level

## ON THE RECORD

### Surprise yourself and make a positive change



By CHARLIE MARTIN

Let's say you know that you're not living with the zest and enthusiasm that you want. How do you make a positive change?

That's the question I considered when I listened to Jack Garratt's latest single, "Surprise Yourself," off his debut album "Phase." Garratt knows about losing a sense of purpose. As a songwriter, performer and multi-instrumentalist, Garratt realized that "I wasn't proud of the songs I was writing." He sought popular approval rather than being true to his own artistic sense. So, he dropped out of college and thought that "I was going through a quarter or midlife crisis, but I was not even 20."

Garratt decided to write new songs based on "a different level of respect and integrity." The result – a musical endeavor that earned him the Critics Choice award at the 2016 Brit Awards for pop music.

Did Garratt "surprise" himself with his newfound commitment to write music that honors who he is? Well, perhaps, but his willingness to reclaim what he knew was authentic for him was important.

So how might you need to surprise yourself? What steps could reaffirm your intent to live according to your own sense of integrity?

These are rigorous questions regardless of your age. It takes courage to take a moral inventory of your choices and behaviors and discern where you may be failing your own values. Still, doing so can revitalize your sense of being alive, for a life without integrity is a dull life indeed.

Where to begin? Start with Jesus' teachings. Are you careful to treat everyone you meet with respect, even if you disagree with them? Do you practice compassion rather than judgment toward others?

Are you ready to forgive, knowing that others have their own path of learning just as you do? Do you refuse to talk about others behind their backs, even if they do so about you? You can create a whole litany of questions to reflect how Jesus taught us to live. Create your own inventory and note where any lack of integrity might exist.

Living with integrity leads to other questions. For example, how much time in a week do you devote to your genuine passions? When we give away our time and energy to choices that feel more like obligations rather than what we really care about, again life becomes dull.

If you are primarily going through the "required motions," you may have diminished zest for life. Again, take an inventory about what you give your time and energy to, and if not consistent with what you are passionate about, make some changes.

Also consider – by whose script are you living your life? Sure, going to school or living within a family means respecting those you interact with every day. Still, once this level of integrity is consistently reached, you need to think about your own purpose in life.

## PUZZLE

Using the hints provided, draw a line between the miracle Elisha performed with God's help and the person(s) who received the miracle.

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| The Shunammite woman (2 Kings 4:32-37) | Made a little oil fill many jars |
| A prophet's widow (2 Kings 4:1-7)      | Made poisoned stew edible        |
| Gehazi (2 Kings 5:25-27)               | Raised a dead child              |
| The guild prophets (2 Kings 4:38-41)   | Caused a person's leprosy        |

See answers on page 15.

## CHILDREN'S STORY

### Elisha cures Naaman of his leprosy

By JENNIFER FICCGALIA  
Catholic News Service

A gentile man named Naaman was commander of the king of Aram's army. He was very successful in his raids on Israel, which pleased the king very much.

Since the Israelites did not always follow God, sometimes God allowed their enemies to be victorious against them.

That is why Naaman was so successful.

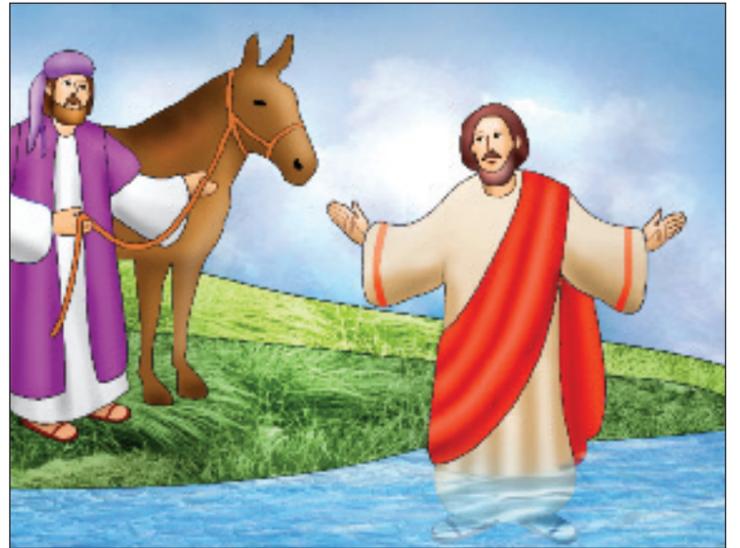
Even though Naaman was powerful and victorious, he had one problem: He was a leper.

During one of the raids on Israel, a little girl was captured and became a servant to Naaman's wife. When the girl saw Naaman's leprosy, she told her mistress about the prophet Elisha.

"If only my master would present himself to the prophet in Samaria!" the little girl said to Naaman's wife. "He would cure him of his leprosy."

Naaman desperately wanted to be cured. He told the king of Aram what the girl had said. So the king gave Naaman money, garments and a letter to present to the king of Israel.

"With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you, that you



may cure him of his leprosy," the king wrote.

When the king of Israel read the letter Naaman handed him, he became very upset. He thought the king of Aram was trying to pick a fight with him.

When Elisha heard this, he told the king to send Naaman to him.

Naaman drove his horses and chariot to Elisha's house.

Elisha did not come out to greet Naaman. Instead, he sent Naaman a message, instructing him to wash in the Jordan River seven times to be healed.

Naaman was furious. He had expected Elisha to treat him like a very important person and perform a special healing ritual over him. He wasn't going to do something as simple as bathing, he thought.

He left Elisha's house in a huff. But his servants reasoned with

him and got him to do as Elisha had said.

Naaman plunged himself into the Jordan. After the seventh time, his leprosy was gone.

Naaman returned to Elisha a little more humble than when he had left.

"Now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel," he said to Elisha.

From that day on, Naaman worshipped only God.

#### READ MORE ABOUT IT:

2 Kings 5

#### Q&A:

1. Who needed to be cured of leprosy?

2. What cure did Elisha prescribe?

**ESSAY:** When have you resisted doing what you were told, and why? How did you feel once you did what had been asked of you?

## BIBLE ACCENT

### Many examples of great faith

In the New Testament, there are stories that tell of gentile military officers having faith in God.

For example, in Matthew 8, Jesus and the apostles traveled to Capernaum. A Roman centurion there had a servant who was dying. The centurion asked Jesus to heal the servant without coming to his house.

"Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed," he said.

Jesus was amazed by the man's faith. "You may go; as you have believed, let it be done for you," Jesus told him.

In Acts 10, Cornelius, a Roman centurion in Caesarea, prayed to God and gave alms to the Jewish poor. One day, he had a vision. An angel told him to find Peter, who was visiting Joppa.

Cornelius sent three friends to the house where Peter was staying. As they neared the house, the Holy Spirit told Peter to go with the men. It was unlawful for a Jew to associate with a gentile. But earlier that day, Peter also had a vision, in which he learned it was OK to bring God's word to the gentiles.

When Peter arrived at Cornelius' house, he preached about God and Jesus to the many people Cornelius had invited.

As Peter spoke, the Holy Spirit came upon the gentiles. Afterward, they were baptized.

## FEATURED SAINT

### St. Ignatius

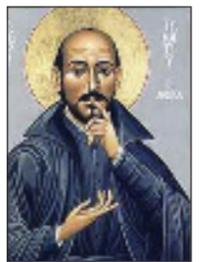
St. Ignatius became the bishop of Antioch, Syria, in the year 69.

The Roman emperor sentenced him to death for refusing to deny his faith.

A group of soldiers escorted him to Rome. During the long journey, he wrote several letters to encourage the Christians living in the towns where they made stops.

When he arrived in Rome, he was sent to the Colosseum, where he was attacked and killed by two lions that were released into the amphitheater with him.

We honor him Oct. 17.



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