

# STUDY NOTES

## THE WAYS OF GRACE

A Series At New City Church

[newcityphx.com/sermons](http://newcityphx.com/sermons)

The following content is based on the message "Achieving Success" on 9/22/19 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this study guide effectively, you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

## PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

## SCRIPTURE: 2 KINGS 5:1-19

## TURNING OUR FLAWS TO GOD

The Enneagram offers nine mirrors for self-reflection. The goal of the Enneagram is to help you let go of the walls you've built because of sin and fear. It should guide you in learning to be comfortable with your flaws and turning them over to God!

## THE ACHIEVER

While Naaman might be a more obscure biblical figure, he can help us understand the mindset of the Enneagram type 3: The Achiever. Achievers are ambitious, competent, excelling, and driven. They are diplomatic, poised, adaptable, and image-conscious.

**The Achiever's basic desire is to feel valuable and worthwhile.**

- *Brian said that if countries had a type, USA would be the Achiever. How do you see these character traits throughout our culture?*
- *Do you know an Achiever? What is it like interacting with that person?*
- *How have you seen the Achiever's character traits used for good?*

## THE ACHIEVER AT THEIR WORST

In Naaman's story, he was enraged because he had a core need to be successful. He was concerned with his image. Many Achievers can be narcissistic with grandiose, inflated notions about themselves and their talents. They want to impress others with their superiority, and can find themselves stretching the truth in order to look good in front of others.

**Achievers think that if they earn something, then they don't have to be indebted to someone else.**

- *How have you been tempted to bend the truth—or outright lie—in order to look good in front of others?*

## THE ACHIEVER AND THE WAYS OF GOD

God had a different plan for Naaman. God didn't want Naaman's achievements. He wanted Naaman. To do that, God asked Naaman to wash himself in the Jordan. This didn't make sense, because the Jordan is an extremely dirty river. But this is often what God calls the Achiever to do. They have to be careful not to fall to the temptation to build their own kingdoms.

**Mature Achievers can renounce security or identity won by status, money, and power.**

- *Describe a time in your life when God had a plan for you that was different from what you wanted. How did you respond to that?*
- *In what ways has God called you to renounce your achievements in order to give yourself fully to Him?*
- **Read 1 Corinthians 1:27-31.** *How do you need to boast in the Lord?*
- *Pray with each other to boast in the Lord.*