

Lesson 10

Jesus Heals Ten Lepers

Bible Lesson: Luke 17:12-19

Memory Verse: In everything give thanks. / *Thessalonians 5:18*

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

- ◆ that Jesus can heal body and soul
- ◆ that we should be thankful to God, especially for the forgiveness of sin

Prepare Materials

- ◆ pictures of things we are thankful for
- ◆ a picture of a cross
- ◆ plain cookies, 1 per child
- ◆ frosting

- ◆ Lifesavers candy halves
- ◆ small plastic knives, 1 per child
- ◆ construction paper circles with today's memory verse written on them
- ◆ 28" pieces of yarn, 1 for each child
- ◆ small stickers
- ◆ construction paper praying hands (pattern in Teacher Manual) and heart cutouts, 4 of each
- ◆ "Miracles of Jesus" flannelgraph of Healing Ten Lepers
- ◆ cassette player and tapes

BIBLE BACKGROUND

Bible Study Text: Luke 17:12-19

I. Introduction

How thankful am I? Do I have a habit of saying "thank you"? Is it only a habit, a form devoid of real gratitude from the heart? In these last days, these perilous days, we are told that ingratitude will be one of the signs of the times (see II Timothy 3:1-2). In our text today, we find Jesus once again healing people. This time it is healing from a terrible disease called leprosy. We learn once again of the power of Jesus to heal any disease. We learn of the sin of ingratitude to God for blessings received. But we also find an example of true thankfulness. We see that Jesus takes note of both.

II. God's Power to Heal Any Disease of the Body

- A. God breathed very life into man. As a part of the Triune God, Jesus Christ is also the Creator of man (John 1:1-3,14). Certainly He is able to heal what He has created.
- B. All healing must be according to His will. It must glorify Him. If God sees fit to heal us, then our faith in Him should increase. (Please review Lessons 6 and 7 and look over Lesson 11 concerning this.)

III. Jesus' Power to Heal from Sin

Jesus Christ is able to heal the worst disease of all, which is sin sickness. When the Bible states that Jesus "*heals all your diseases*" (Psalm 103:3-4), sin sickness, the sickness of the soul, must certainly be included. He "*pardons all your iniquities*" and He "*redeems your life from the pit.*" (Review Lesson 6.) We should all have the attitude of the leper in Matthew 8:2-3. First it states that he "*bowed down to Him (Jesus).*" Then he said, "*Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.*" What did Jesus do? He stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, "*I am willing; be cleansed*" And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. Jesus can do this for any one of us in any situation, if He wills it.

IV. The Disease of Leprosy

- A. The type of leprosy cited in our lesson was called lepromatous. It began with brownish red spots on the face, ears, forearms, thighs and/or buttocks, which later became thickened nodules. Losing the skin covering, the spots became ulcers (open sores) with subsequent loss of tissue and then contraction and deformity. Fingers would eventually fall away from leprosy.
- B. People having leprosy were isolated or would stay in leper colonies (Leviticus 13:46; Numbers 5:2; 12:14; II Kings 15:5; II Chronicles 26:21).
- C. People afflicted with leprosy were considered unclean. (See the law concerning leprosy in Leviticus 13:9-20 and Numbers 5:1-3.) A leper was to shout "Unclean! Unclean!" to warn others (Leviticus 13:45). The ten lepers in our text, when approaching Jesus, "*stood at a distance; and they raised their voices, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!'*" (Luke 17:12-13).
- D. Leprosy is symbolic of sin.
 1. As there was no cure for leprosy, there is no cure for sin as far as man's ability is concerned.
 2. As leprosy meant eventual certain death, so does sin. "*The wages of sin is death*" (Romans 6:23).
 3. Leprosy was considered unclean, and so is sin. Sin is an uncleanness of the soul. It means impure, defiled, and corrupt. Sin is a moral uncleanness. Along with many sins that corrupt mankind, Paul includes "*any impurity (uncleanness)*" and "*no immoral or impure (unclean) person*" (Ephesians 5:3-5). He again uses the word "*impurity (uncleanness)*" in Galatians 5:19.
- E. Regarding sin, we must turn around the words of the leper.

The leper in Matthew 8:2-3 said, "*If You are willing, You can make me clean.*" That was regarding a bodily disease. In contrast, when we come to the Lord with spiritual concerns we have His Word that "*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*" (I John 1:9). God wills that all should be saved and come to repentance (II Peter 3:9).

V. A Thankful Heart

- A. Ten lepers were healed (Luke 17:14). They all had wanted Jesus to show mercy on them (v.13).

- B. Nine went about their business and never thanked Jesus. Only one returned when he saw he had been healed. He glorified God (v.15b) and fell on his face before Jesus in humility "giving thanks to Him" (v.16).
- C. Jesus took note of who was grateful (v.17-18). Jesus saw true faith in this one man's heart (v.19). He also notices whether or not we are grateful.
- D. A sign of the last days will be ingratitude (II Timothy 3:1-2). By God's grace, may we not be found having this "sign of the times" in our hearts.
- E. When Jesus heals us physically or spiritually, we ought to glorify God, rejoice and give thanks. We should even make our requests to God with thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6), for we know that God does all things well. All things "*work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose*" (Romans 8:28).
- F. Jesus Himself practiced thanksgiving, and teaches us to do the same. (See John 11:41; Matthew 26:27; Mark 8:6; Luke 22:19.)
- G. Thanksgiving is exemplified throughout the Bible (see Moses and Israel, Genesis 32:10; a song of deliverance and a song of thanksgiving, Exodus 15:1-21; David, for God's provision, I Chronicles 29:10-20; David in Psalm 68:19 and Psalm 92:1; new Christians in Acts 2:46; and Paul in I Timothy 1:12).
- H. The Bible gives many exhortations to be thankful. "*O give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples*" (Psalm 105:1). "*Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His lovingkindness is everlasting*" (Psalm 118:1). See also these admonitions in the New Testament: Colossians 1:12; Colossians 2:7; I Thessalonians 5:18; Hebrews 13:15.

VI. Conclusion

Let none of us be like the nine lepers that Jesus was merciful and gracious to by healing them, who simply went their way and never returned to give Him thanks. There are many today who accept and expect all the blessings and mercy of God, but never give thanks. The unsaved receive many temporal blessings, but do not have thankful hearts to God. As Christians, we receive much more. We receive eternal blessings! We have forgiveness of sins, and we have the peace, the hope, and the joy of Christ's salvation. We have Him, and we know Him; to know Him is life eternal. So whether or not God sees fit to heal us of physical disease or injury, we ought to be grateful. God knows best. Let us make our requests known unto Him. He knows our needs, but desires us to bring our requests to Him. We are to do this "*by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving.*" Then "*the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus*" (Philippians 4:6-7). When we have done this, we leave the decision to Him to do what is best for us and to glorify Himself. Let us be sure to give God the praise, the glory, and the honor, "*always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father*" (Ephesians 5:20).

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome with Love

Thank each child for coming to class today. Tell them how glad you are to have them here.

DRAW ATTENTION to the pictures you brought of things you are thankful for.

ASK the class to suggest other things they are thankful for.

SAY: The most important thing to be thankful for cannot be seen or put on a piece of paper. Do you know what that might be? It is salvation, the forgiveness of sin.

SHOW a picture of a cross.

SAY: Jesus paid for all of our sins when He died on the cross. When we are truly sorry for our sins and ask Jesus to forgive us, He does forgive us. He gives us the gift of salvation. Then we can know we will go to heaven and live with Jesus forever.

Use a Learning Center

HOUSEKEEPING CENTER - THANKFUL COOKIES

PLAY MUSIC as children make their "thankful" cookies. (See suggested tapes listed under Resource List in the introductory pages.)

GIVE each child a small plastic knife and a plain cookie. Put a small spoonful of frosting on each cookie and let the children frost their own cookie.

GIVE each child Lifesaver halves to make closed eyes, a nose, and a mouth on their cookies. (Cookies should not be frosted before class since the Lifesavers will not stick if the cookies are frosted too far in advance.)

As the children decorate and eat their cookies, **TALK WITH THEM** about the following: These cookies are called "thankful" cookies because they have closed eyes. They are to remind us to be thankful. We can close our eyes and pray to God, thanking Him for all His gifts to us.

SUGGEST things we can be thankful for. Mention non-material things also. Have each child close his eyes and say, "Thank You, God, for _____."

ART CENTER - THANK YOU, GOD

(Use the construction paper circles prepared before class with today's Bible verse written on them. You will need one for each student.)

PUNCH a hole in the circle near the edge. **KNOT** the ends of the piece of yarn about 6" from the end. From behind the circle, slip one end of the yarn through the hole in the circle. **TIE** both ends in a bow on the right side of the circle.

GIVE one prepared circle and stickers to each child. As they decorate their circles with stickers, say today's Bible verse: *In everything give thanks.* Tell them that whenever they wear this or look at it, they can be reminded to say, "Thank you, God, for everything!"

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Sing the Message

Sing "*Thank You, Loving Father*" p.71 Little Ones Sing Praise or "*Now Thank We All Our God*" p.145 Ambassador Hymnal.

Pray the Message

*Thank You for the food we eat,
Thank You for the friends we meet,
Thank You for the birds that sing,
Thank You, God, for everything!*

Introduce the Message

In our story today, we will learn about ten men who had a disease called leprosy. These men had open sores on their skin. Because of the leprosy, people thought that they were unclean. People stayed away from them because they were afraid they might get leprosy.

Read/Tell the Message

JESUS HEALS TEN LEPERS

One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten. Ten men needed help from Jesus because they were sick. They had a sickness called leprosy. The lepers had sores on their bodies that would spread to other people. They had to stay away from their families and friends.

One day as Jesus came to a village, He met the ten lepers. Staying far away from Jesus, the lepers called, "Jesus, Master, please help us!" They knew Jesus could heal people. Jesus saw the ten lepers and heard them shouting for help. Jesus cared about them and wanted to help them.

Jesus said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." The ten lepers obeyed Jesus. Jesus took away the leprosy from every one of the men while they were going to see the priests. They were very happy because their sores were gone! They were not lepers anymore!

But only one man came back to thank Jesus. He bowed down at Jesus' feet. The man thanked Jesus for healing him. Jesus asked, "Ten men were healed. Where are the other nine? Is this the only one who came back to thank God?"

Do not be like the nine men who forgot to thank Jesus. Be like the one man who remembered to thank Jesus for making him well again. Can you think of three things you can thank Jesus for? The most important thing to thank Jesus for is taking away your sins.

Every day, thank Jesus for all of the good things He gives you. Every day, tell Jesus, "Thank You, Jesus, for taking my sins away."

Prayerfully sing together:

*Thank You, Lord, for saving my soul;
Thank You, Lord, for making me whole;
Thank You, Lord, for giving to me
Thy great salvation so rich and free.*

Reinforce the Message

ASK: How many lepers were healed? (10) How many of them came back to Jesus to thank Him? (only one) What was the most important thing Jesus did for this man? (forgave his sins)

SAY: Many people never think to give thanks to God for all of His good gifts. We have much to thank Jesus for! Many people do not know Jesus can take away their sins. We can tell others that Jesus loves them and will forgive their sins too.

If time allows, have the children act out the story.

SING "*Praise and Thanksgiving*" p.10 Songs of God and Me or p.352 Ambassador Hymnal. This song can be sung in a round for three groups. Have a few older children or adults come and help if necessary. Bring bells and rhythm instruments for the children to play as you sing this song. (Ideas included in Songs of God and Me.)

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Memorize the Bible Verse

SING "The Best Book of All Is the Bible."

Use the cutouts of four praying hands (pattern in Teacher Manual) and four hearts with the memory verse written on as follows:

I Thessalonians 5 (on heart)
Verse 18 (on heart)
In (on hands)
everything (on heart)
give (on hands)
thanks (on heart)
I Thessalonians 5 (on hands)
Verse 18 (on hands)

Put the cutouts up in order on a bulletin board or the wall, and say the verse together several times.

ASK: How do we give thanks in everything? We say thank you to God when we fold our hands and pray to God. That is why we used praying hands in our verse. But there is something else we must have when we say thank you to God; that is a thankful heart.

REPEAT the verse together.

Do the Activities Together

ACTIVITY 1 - Healing the Ten Lepers

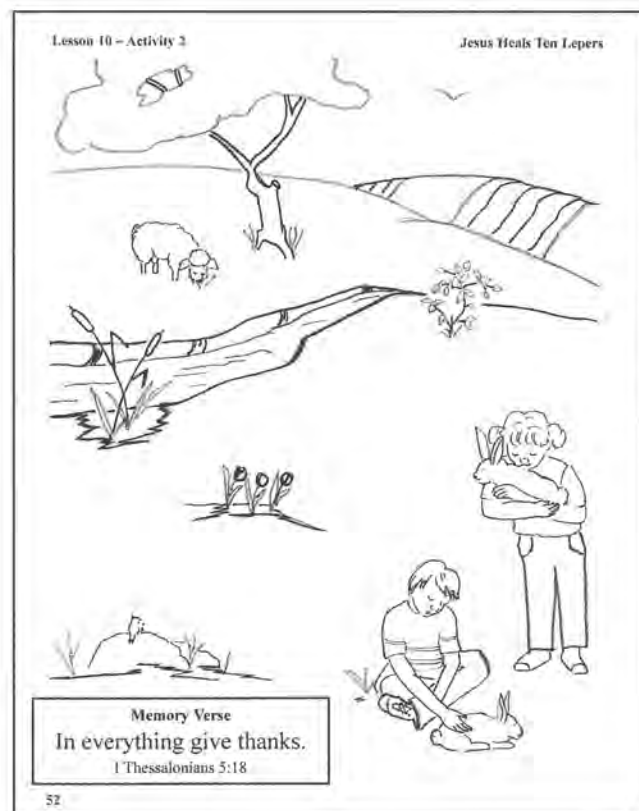
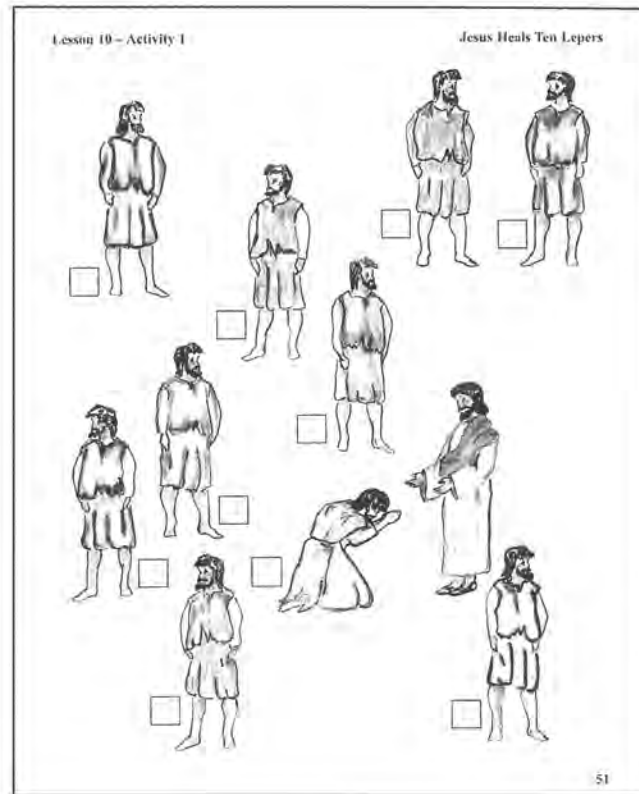
Have students **WRITE** the numbers 1 through 10 in the boxes provided as they count the men.

ASK: Which man returned to say thank you to Jesus? Yes! Let's circle that picture.

ACTIVITY 2 - Give Thanks

Discuss what we can be thankful for. Include things not shown in the picture.

Have the children **COLOR** the picture as they review the memory verse.



CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Teach and Sing

Sing JESUS LOVES ME.

If you are adding additional verses, be sure to keep reviewing all verses.

Sing "*I Have Hands That Will Clap*" p.29
Little Ones Sing Praise.

(You may also want to review "*God Is So Good*" or "*Praise Him, Praise Him, All Ye Little Children.*")

Pray Together

The teacher should close with prayer. Prayer time should remain in the spirit of thanksgiving.

Sing or speak together "*Father, We Thank You for Your Word.*"

Encourage the children to think of things they are thankful for throughout the week and to thank God every day for His love for us.

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Gather and Prepare Materials

- ◆ cookies with whole Lifesaver eyes made ahead of time
- ◆ paper with memory verse written on it, 1 per child
- ◆ a picture of Jesus
- ◆ flashlight
- ◆ "Miracles of Jesus" flannelgraph on Blind Bartimaeus

Prepare Lesson 11

Prepare yourself with prayer.

Ask God to guide your study. Pray for each of your students and their families.

Read the Bible texts (Mark 10:46-52 and Luke 18:35-43) and the student book.

Memorize the Bible verse:

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.
Psalm 48:1

Study the Teacher Manual

Highlight and write in your own notes.

* * *

Are you sending get-well cards, birthday cards, or other notes to your students to show you care about them?

* * *

Remember to order books for next quarter.

