



Miracles of Jesus – Ten Lepers

Point of the day: Let's be grateful when God does things for us
Memory Verse: He came back, shouting praises to God. Luke 17:15

SESSION AIM

To see how Jesus healed 10 lepers, but only one said thank you. We will recognize that we should be grateful when God does things for us.

LEADERS NOTES

We can't come into God's presence because we are sin-stained and unclean. We have to go to the Priest, who will pronounce us clean (Jesus, the great High Priest). And only then can we come, gratefully, into God's very presence.

It is Jesus who makes us clean – white as snow – no longer having to cover up our sin, but living in freedom. Freedom to enjoy the life he has given us.

As a people, we are not given to gratitude. We are learning to expect, to take as our right the things that people give us or do for us, and we complain if things are not up to standard. We criticize where we should thank. And so this story shows us afresh that gratitude is important. We should be grateful to God for the things he gives us.

This is the message that I have tried to get across in the Bible activities and again in the Take Away section, while the response section comes right away from the story of the 10 lepers and looks at the ways we can be thankful to God today, grateful to God today.

The children don't have to be thankful for big things: we often neglect the small things that God provides day in, day out. Sunrises, bird song, flowers, grass, fresh water, the NHS, friends and family. All are gifts from God.

One of the activities has the lepers ringing a bell. This wasn't the practice in Bible times; it didn't come in until the middle ages, but introducing the idea of the bell will help the children realize how separate the lepers were. Just make sure in telling the story that you don't state that in Jesus' time lepers rang a bell to warn of their approach!

ACTIVITY ONE –

Type of activity: Youtube Video "The Thankful Leper (Luke 17: 11-19)"

10 lepers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LzZUDRrKgI8>

Equipment: Video and the means to play it

Duration: 15 min



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Do you think it would be nice to be a leper? Why/why not?
- What did the men do when they saw Jesus?
- What did Jesus say to them?
- What did the men do?
- How many men came back to Jesus?
- How did Jesus feel when only one man came back?

The Point: To tell them the story

ACTIVITY TWO -

Type of activity: Game

So Grateful

Equipment: None

Duration: 10 min

Type of activity:

Sit in a circle. Ask the children what being grateful/thankful means?
Then go round the circle with each child saying something that they are grateful for.

The Point: to introduce the idea of being grateful. Just for fun.

ACTIVITY THREE –

Type of activity: Bible lesson Luke 17:11-19

Imagine Leprosy

Duration: 15 min

Equipment: None

Ask the children to make themselves comfortable and to close their eyes as you tell the story.
Ask them to imagine that they are actually there in the story.

You have a problem. It began in your hand one day – a tiny scab. Then the scab grew and it didn't get better. You began to notice more scabs, more sores. Soon they were all over your arms and legs. You couldn't feel your fingers any more.

You covered yourself with bandages, but you couldn't get better. You had leprosy.

Everyone is afraid of leprosy. It's a bad illness. People who have it aren't allowed to live in the towns. So you live out in the countryside with other people who are sick like you. You can't go to your family any more. You can't get a job. People run away when they see you coming.



But one day you hear that Jesus is coming and you know that He can do miracles. So you go to him with a group of 9 other lepers. Not too close – you mustn't get close to other people, healthy people. So you stand at the back of the crowd and shout, "Jesus! Have mercy on us! Jesus! Heal us!"

Jesus looks up at you and smiles. "Go, show yourself to the priest," he says.

That is what lepers who have got better have to do. The priest can say that you are better, and then you can go home to your family. You are not better yet. You can feel your sore skin itching. But you trust Jesus and you do what he has told you... even though you are not healed yet.

Suddenly, as you start walking to the priest, you realise something: you can feel your fingers! You wiggle them. They are pink again. They are better. You take a bandage off your leg. It is clean and flesh coloured with no sores or ulcers any more. You are better!

You have to say thank you – you are so grateful. The other 9 are better too; you are all laughing and shouting. The other 9 carry on to see the priest, but not you.

You turn around. You go back to where Jesus is and this time you go right to him... you are allowed now. You kneel down and say, "Thank you! Thank you!"

Jesus is surprised that you are the only one to come back to him, but he places his hand on your head. "Your faith has made you well," he says.

Keep the children lying down for a moment after you finish the story. Then ask them what they learn about Jesus from this story?

Why do they think only one man said thank you? Weren't the rest grateful?

Say that we should also remember to say thank you when God does things for us.

The Point: to imagine being one of the lepers.

ACTIVITY FOUR –

Type of activity: Craft

Jesus heals a leper

Equipment: pens, paint, scissors and glue

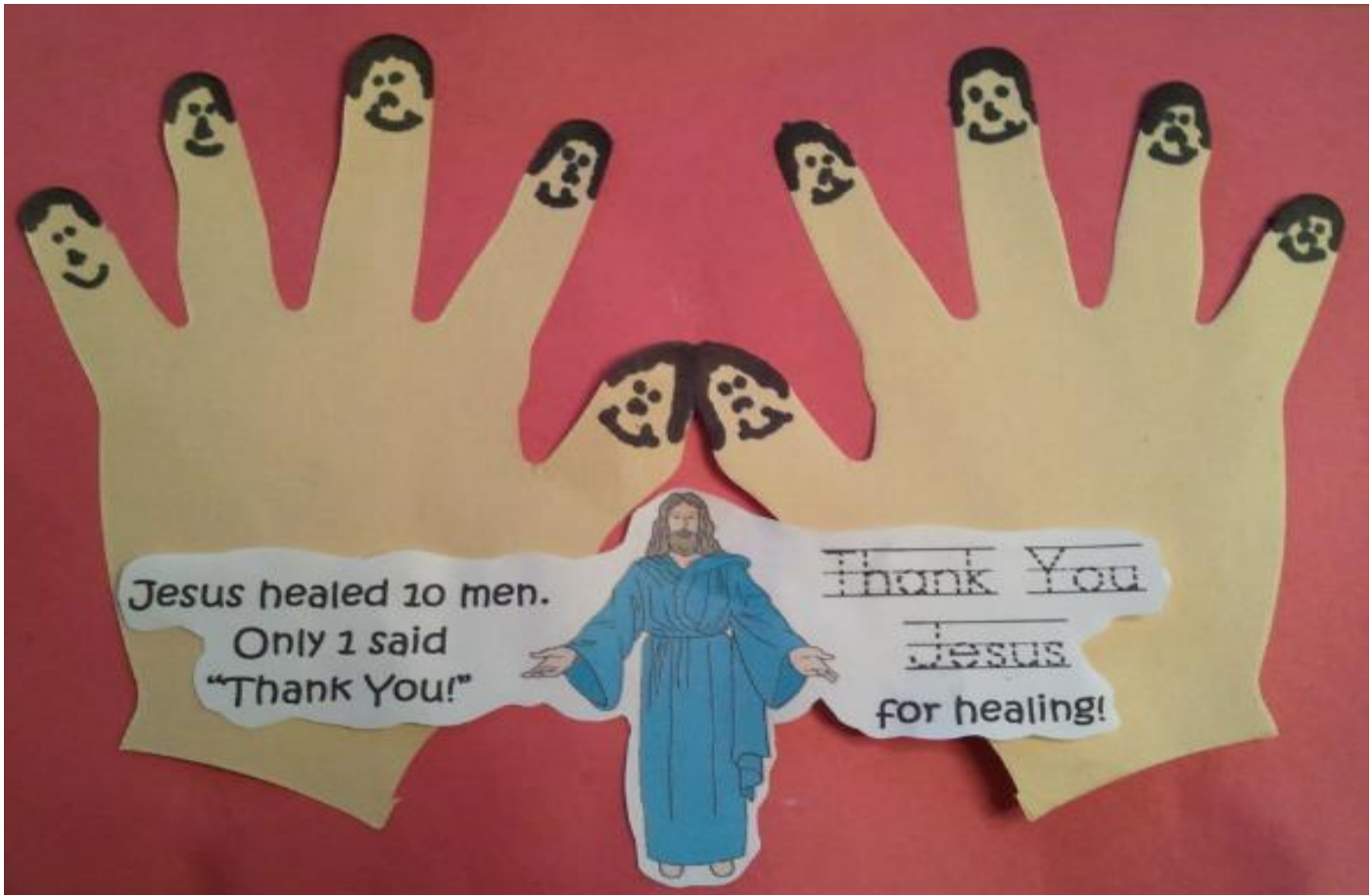
Duration: 15 min

Draw around your hands and turn the end of your fingers and thumbs into faces.

- Make 9 faces grumpy and one face happy

Cut out the text box and Jesus and stick them onto the drawings of your hands.

The Point: To remember the story.



Jesus healed 10 men, only 1 said thank you
Luke 17:11-19

Which Leper made it back to say thank you to Jesus?



Answer below:

