



Miracles of Jesus – Ten Lepers

In this session, we'll look at the story of the ten lepers being made well and see how important it is that we say thank you to Jesus.

LEADERS NOTES

Today's story seems to be all about saying thank you. And saying thank you is very, very important: the way we treat or appreciate a gift reveals how we feel about the giver. However, perhaps there's even more to it. Ann Voskamp's book, 1000 Gifts has recently swept many bestseller lists. In it, she unpicks a bit more of this story, reflecting on Jesus' words to the grateful, returning man - your faith has made you well:

"Wait. I trace back. Hadn't Jesus already completely healed him? Exactly like the other nine who were cured but who hadn't bothered to return and thank Him. So what does Jesus mean, "Your faith has made you well"? Had I underinterpreted this passage, missed some hidden mystery? I slow down and dig. I read Jesus' words in Young's Literal Translation, "And [Jesus] said to him, 'Having risen, be going on, thy faith has saved thee.'" Saved thee? I dig deeper. It's sozo in the Greek. Many translations render sozo as being made "well" or "whole", but its literal meaning, I read it - "to save". Sozo means salvation. It means true wellness, complete wholeness. To live sozo is to live the full life. Jesus came that we might live life to the full; He came to give us sozo. And when did the leper receive sozo - the saving to the full, whole life? When he returned and gave thanks."

You might find it helpful to reflect on the things you can be thankful for as you prepare this session.

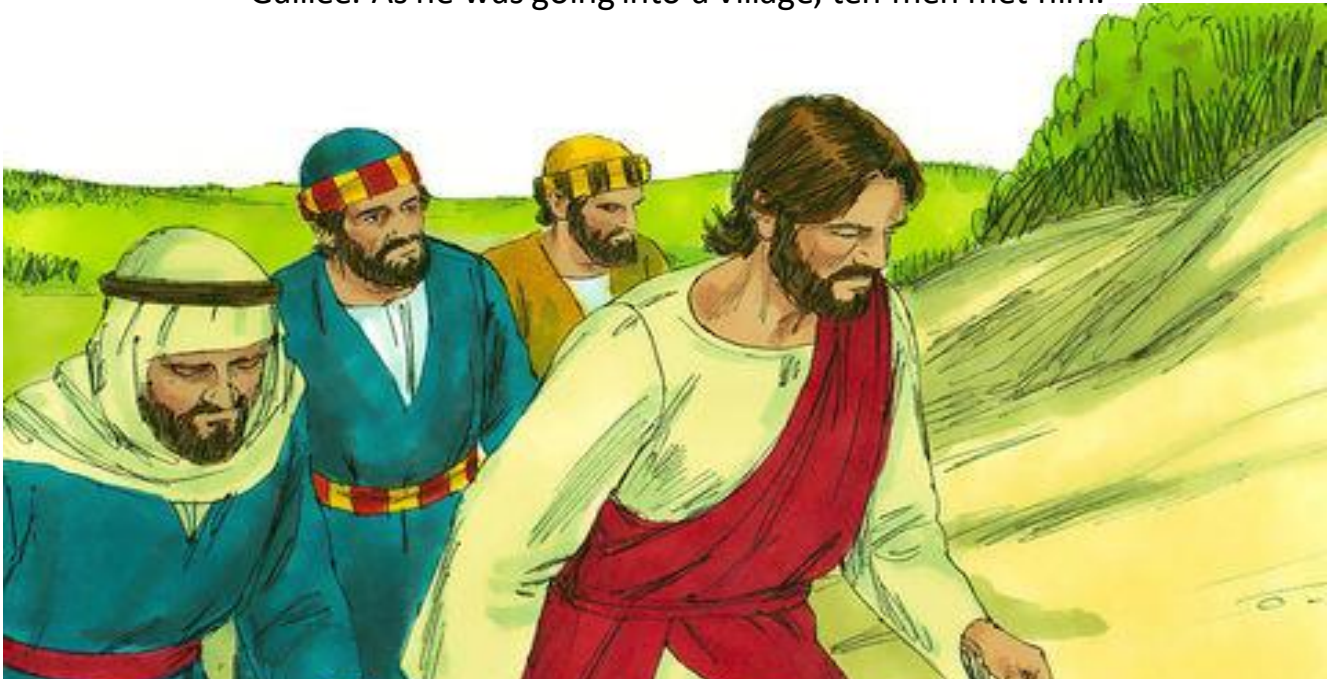
Story: Be Thankful

¹¹ Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. Traveling from Galilee to Samaria, ¹² he came into a small town. Ten men met him there. These men did not come close to Jesus, because they all had a harmful skin disease. ¹³ But they called to him, "Jesus! Master! Please help us!"

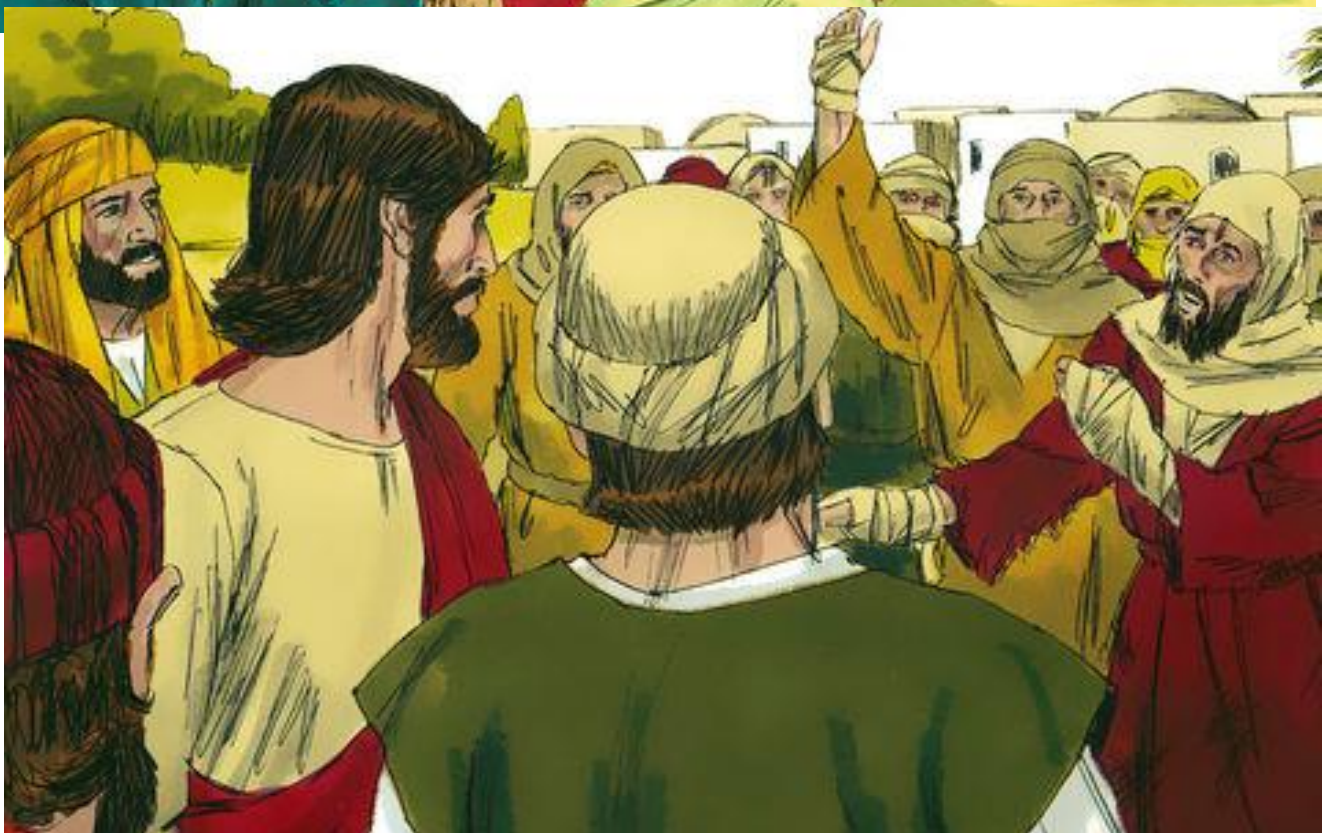
¹⁴ When Jesus saw the men, he said, "Go and show yourselves to the priests."^[b]

While the ten men were going, they were healed. ¹⁵ When one of them saw that he was healed, he went back to Jesus. He praised God in a loud voice. ¹⁶ Then he bowed down at Jesus' feet and thanked him. (This man was a Samaritan.) ¹⁷ Jesus asked, "Ten men were healed; where are the other nine? ¹⁸ Is this Samaritan the only one who came back to thank God?" ¹⁹ Then Jesus said to him, "Stand up and go on your way. You were healed because you believed."

Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. He travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men met him.



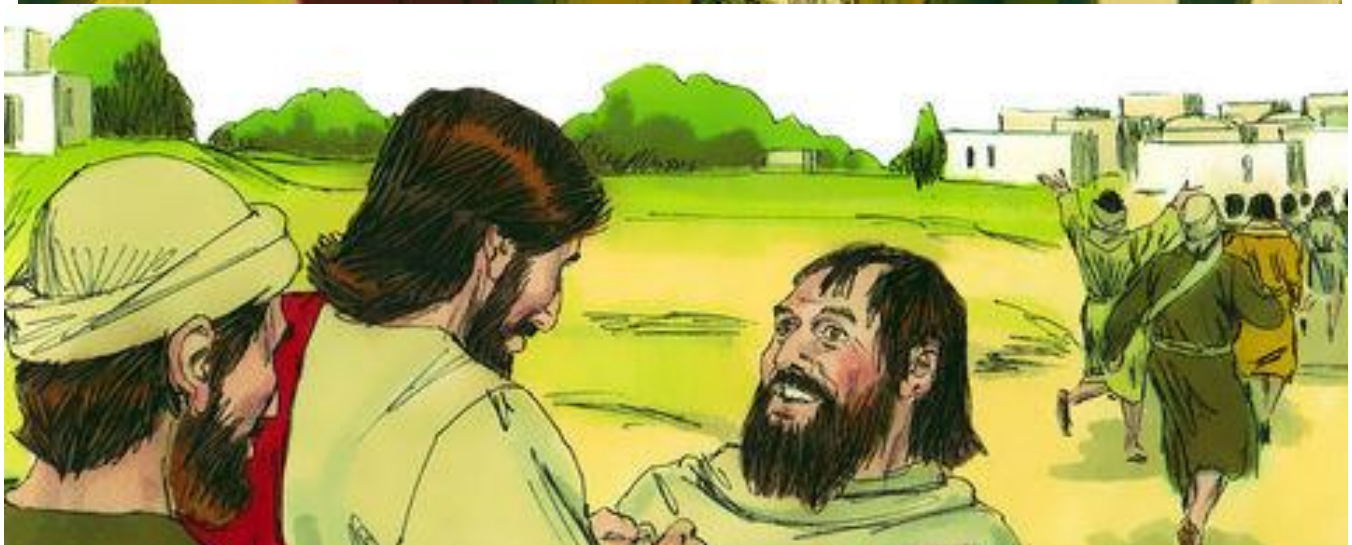
They had a skin disease. They were standing close by. And they called out in a loud voice, "Jesus! Master! Have pity on us!"



Jesus saw them and said, “Go. Show yourselves to the priests.” While they were on the way, they were healed.



When one of them saw that he was healed, he came back. He praised God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan.



Jesus asked, “Weren’t all ten healed? Where are the other nine? Didn’t anyone else return and give praise to God except this outsider?” Then Jesus said to him, “Get up and go. Your faith has healed you.”

Craft: Paper leper man healed

Prepare cut-out gingerbread man shapes. Have kids draw a sad face and white spots on one side and a happy face on the other, with the words, "Thank you Jesus!". Let them decorate it.

