Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

1st Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 18

The Ten Lepers

The Ten Lepers

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

Objective **This lesson will instruct the students in the importance of thankfulness through the story of the ten lepers.**

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

Key Verses

Luke 17:11-19—Main Teaching Passage

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

Memory Verse - 1 Thessalonians 5:18

"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Hook

Review last week's memory verse, John 11:25.

Have a teacher stand outside the room. Tell the class that you got that teacher a special surprise. When the teacher learns about the surprise, have them respond with ungratefulness. Then ask the class how the teacher should have responded.

Today, we are going to see the importance of thankfulness. Ask the students if they think thankfulness is a big deal or not.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

One day when Jesus was traveling, He entered a village where He found ten lepers. Leprosy is a terrible disease that affects people's ability to feel. Back in Jesus' day, lepers would become outcasts. They would have to leave their family and could only live with other lepers. It was also a disease that had no cure in that day. Many people in those days believed that if a person had leprosy, it was because God was punishing them for a sin. Because they were not allowed to approach other people, these ten lepers stood far away from Jesus and cried out, asking Him to have mercy on them. Jesus commanded them to go show themselves to the priest, which was what someone who was healed of leprosy was supposed to do. As they went to see the priest, all ten were miraculously cured.

One of the now former lepers saw what happened and went back to thank Jesus. The Bible tells us that he was a Samaritan, and as we learned earlier this year, the Samaritans usually did not get along well with the Jews. The Samaritan bowed down and worshipped in front of Jesus, thanking Him for cleansing him from his leprosy. When Jesus saw that only one of the ten men had returned, He asked why the other nine didn't come back and thank Him. He pointed out that it was only the Samaritan, a foreigner, who had returned. Finally, Jesus commended the Samaritan's faith and told him that it was this faith that healed him. Jesus then sent him on his way.

The interpretation/ exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK

The message of today's story is very simple: Jesus wants us to be thankful. These ten men had something incredible happen to them. Their lives were difficult and painful before this encounter with Jesus. Then they met Him and their lives were transformed. Their painful disease went away and they were completely healed. Since Jesus did such a wonderful work in their lives, the least they could have done was come back to thank Him, but only one of them did. The others failed to give Jesus the honor and praise He deserved.

Notice that in this story, the lepers' thankfulness or unthankfulness did not determine whether or not they got healed. The Bible does not record any punishment or relapse for the unthankful lepers. However, that did not mean it was not important, as Jesus commended the thankful man and rebuked the other nine. The Samaritan came back to thank Jesus not because he wanted to get something out of it, but because he knew that it was the right thing to do.

LOOK (Continued)

Jesus was clearly upset by the lack of thankfulness He received in this story. After all, considering He did for these men, a thank-you was not much to ask, yet the nine lepers could not be bothered to come back and show gratitude. Probably everyone in the class has had the experience of doing something nice for someone and not receiving any thanks. When we work hard to bless someone, we hope that they are grateful and it is disappointing when they are not. The Bible encourages us to be thankful always both toward God and toward others.

We actually have even more to be thankful for than these men. Jesus may have healed their physical condition, but as believers, we know that He fixed our spiritual problem by dying on the cross for us. He gave us something greater than a healthy life on earth: He gave us eternal life with Him in Heaven. That alone is reason for us always to thank God, but there's even more. The Bible says that everything we have, from the food in the fridge to the clothes on our backs, is from God. Our health, our possessions, and every good thing in our lives are all from. For all He has done for us, God surely deserves our thanks. Thankfulness is no small matter to God. It is an attitude that every believer needs to cultivate in his or her life.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class, memorize 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

Make a list of things your class is thankful for on the board. Include both physical things (food, toys, etc.), people (friends and family), and spiritual things (salvation).

Pray: Thank the Lord for the things you listed. Ask Him to help all of us to be thankful for all He has done for us.

Parent Question: What can I thank Jesus for this week?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Luke 17:11-19 by David Guzik

B. The cleansing of ten lepers.

1. (Luke 17:11-14) The healing of the lepers.

Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up *their* voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So when He saw *them,* He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.

a. **As He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers**: It was not unusual for these lepers to congregate with one another. They were outcasts from society at large, and had no company other than other lepers — so, they **stood afar off**.

i. **Who stood afar off**: "They kept at a distance, because forbidden by law and custom to come near to those who were sound, for fear of infecting them. See Leviticus 13:46; Numbers 5:2; 2 Kings 15:5." (Clarke)

ii. **Passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee**: "The words *dia meson* are best translated 'through the middle of,' or 'between,' referring to Jesus' travel along the border between Samaria and Galilee." (Pate)

b. **And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"**: They came to Jesus together and they prayed together, even though they were a mixed group of Jews and Samaritans (Luke 17:15-16). Bonded by their misery, their national and other prejudices vanished as they came together in prayer.

i. "A common misfortune had broken down the racial and national barriers. In the common tragedy of their leprosy they had forgotten they were Jews and Samaritans and remembered only they were men in need." (Barclay)

c. **Go, show yourselves to the priests**: It was remarkable that Jesus asked them to go to the priests while they were still lepers. This was truly stepping out in faith, as in putting on the new man even when we still look and feel like the old man.

i. "The one condition of healing was obedience. Ordered, they must obey. If He was master as they had cried He was, then let them prove their faith by their obedience." (Morrison)

ii. "God highly honours this kind of faith, and makes it the instrument in his hand of working many miracles. He who will not believe till he receives what *he* calls *a reason for it*, is never likely to get his soul saved. The highest, the most sovereign *reason*, that can be given for *believing*, is that *God* has *commanded* it." (Clarke)

d. **And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed**: Just as God blessed the faith of the lepers to step out as the new man even when they feel like the old, so will He bless our faith.

i. "It is as we go on the commanded road that we experience the commanded blessing. Let the Church obey the command of the Lord Jesus, and with enthusiasms evangelise the nations, and, *as she goes*, she will be healed." (Morrison)

2. (Luke 17:15-19) Only one out of ten of the lepers return to give thanks.

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on *his* face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where *are* the nine? Were there not any found who returned

to give glory to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

a. **And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God**: Only one came back to give thanks; and he was the *unlikely* one — **a Samaritan**. And, though he was the only one, at least he was very **loud** about his thanks.

i. All ten were willing to do a religious ceremony; that is go to the priest. Only one was filled with true praise and thanksgiving. "External religious exercises are easy enough, and common enough; but the internal matter, the drawing out of the heart in thankful love, how scarce a thing it is! Nine obey ritual where only one praises the Lord." (Spurgeon)

b. **Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?** Jesus *missed* the nine who did not return to give thanks. He marveled that they did not return to give Him thanks. Jesus also notices our lack of gratitude.

i. "The question was asked, and it at once proves the value He sets upon the service of praise…One wonders whether it is not so that our Lord has been asking this question very constantly." (Morgan)

ii. "Christ keeps count how many favours men receive from him, and will call them to a particular account thereof." (Trapp)

iii. We can always find reason for gratitude before God. Matthew Henry, the famous Bible commentator, was robbed of his wallet once. He wrote in his diary that night all the things he was thankful about:

- First, that he had never been robbed before.
- Second, that though they took his wallet, they did not take his life.
- Third, because even though they took it all, it wasn't very much.
- Finally, because he was the one who was robbed and not the one who did the robbing.

iv. "Lastly, if we work for Jesus, and we see converts, and they do not turn out as we expected, do not let us be cast down about it. If others do not praise our Lord, let us be sorrowful, but let us not be disappointed. The Savior had to say, 'Where are the nine?' Ten lepers were healed, but only one praised him. We have many converts who do not join the church; we have numbers of persons converted who do not come forward to baptism, or to the Lord's Supper. Numbers get a blessing, but do not feel love enough to own it." (Spurgeon)

c. **Your faith has made you well**: There was an extra healing for this tenth leper. When Jesus said this, He likely meant God's work within the man's heart. The other lepers had whole bodies, but sick hearts.