

SESSION 2: **CHOOSE THANKFULNESS**

JESUS HEALS 10 LEPERS **[LUKE 17:11-19]**

MEMORY VERSE: JOHN 3:16

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."



DAILY DEVOTION: LUKE 17:11-19

It is easy to read this passage and shake our heads at the other nine men who failed to thank Jesus. But imagine you had just been healed from a crippling disease like leprosy. What would be the first thing you would do after being healed?

These men had been completely cut off from their loved ones for fear of spreading the disease. Leprosy is spread by touch. If they needed to walk into town, they had to wear bells around their necks to warn others to stay away. In our world today, we can identify on some level with these quarantined men. Many of us have been isolated from the society we knew. But while we have been able to stay in touch through technology, the men in Luke 17 were forced to leave everyone they loved behind.

If asked, the other men would have most likely said they were thankful for their miraculous healing; however, thankfulness was not their first priority. The outstanding feature of the Samaritan was that he not only felt grateful, but also made the effort to turn back and show his thankfulness to God. He made thankfulness a priority. As a result, the Samaritan (once again, a Samaritan is the hero of the story) received a spiritual blessing in addition to the blessing of physical healing.

Is thankfulness a priority in your life? When the pandemic is a memory, will we respond with thankfulness first? In the business of our lives, we often skip past the "thank you." Of course, we feel thankful, but it takes time and effort to go back and say thank you. Even in the midst of trying times, the Bible tells us to be thankful.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says, "Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus."

Because of God's great love, we always have reason to be thankful. Take the time and effort to thank God for His blessings in your life. Start generally, by praying through Psalm 103. Then thank the Lord for His specific blessings. Use Psalm 136 as a guide. God is so good! Take the challenge to do more than feel grateful. Live a life of thankfulness.



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INDOOR ACTIVITY: COLORFUL THANKS

Materials: Red, Blue, Green, Yellow, and Purple Markers (Or use colorful candies like M&Ms or Skittles or colorful paper squares), Bag, Music, Music player

Directions: Put the colorful items in a bag, so no one can see the markers. As you play music, pass the bag around your group. Stop the music. When the music stops, whoever is holding the bag must draw out one marker and share one thing they are thankful for, based on the color marker. (See the chart below.) Start the music again and continue to pass the bag.

MAKE THE CONNECTION:

We have so much to be thankful for that we often forget how much we have been given. Taking time to stop and say thank you is very important. In Luke 17, one man stopped to say thank you. Take the challenge to choose thankfulness every day!



RED – Name a PERSON you are thankful for



BLUE – Name a PLACE you are thankful for



GREEN – Name a FOOD you are thankful for



YELLOW – Name a THING you are thankful for



PURPLE – Name ANYTHING you are thankful for



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CRAFT: THANK YOU NOTE

Materials: Paper, Various art supplies

Directions: We all have a lot to be thankful for, but we often miss the opportunity to say thank you. This is your chance to thank someone today! Make a thank you note with the supplies you have at home. Take your time and make this note special! If the person is not in your home, ask a parent to help you deliver the thank you note.

MAKE THE CONNECTION:

In Luke 17, only one man came back to say thank you. Feeling thankful is good, but taking the time to say thank you is even better.

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OUTDOOR ACTIVITY: THANKFULNESS TOSS

Materials: Paper plates, Toy food (or packaged fruit snacks, small toys, toy eggs, etc.)

Directions: Everyone finds a partner and grabs a paper plate. Partners line up across from one another. Give one partner toy food. Partners use the paper plates to toss and catch the toy food. Each time they drop the food, they must both say one thing they are thankful for. Partners back up each time they successfully make the catch. Who can make the longest catch?

Alternatively, you can play this game without partners. See how many times can you bounce the toy food on your plate without letting it hit the ground.

MAKE THE CONNECTION:

We have so many reasons to be thankful! Now, like the Samaritan man in Luke 17, we should all choose thankfulness. Feeling thankful is good, but showing thankfulness is even better.



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MEMORY VERSE: RELAY RUN

Materials: Memory Verse Posters (pgs. 9-15), Tape

Directions: Tape a Memory Verse Poster to different walls in your home. Race to each poster in order. When you reach the poster, tag the wall and read the poster before running to the next poster. How quickly can you run the race?

Once you have run the race with the posters, remove one poster at a time. Can you run the race and say the verse without the posters?

MAKE THE CONNECTION:

God loves us so much! Jesus came, so we could have an eternal place with Him in heaven. We can always choose to be thankful for God's amazing gift of love.

MEMORY VERSE: JOHN 3:16

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

SESSION 2: TALK ABOUT IT

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Do you think the other nine lepers were thankful to be healed? Why do you think they did not return to say thank you?
2. When should we be thankful?
3. Why do you think people forget to say thank you?

WHAT DOES GOD SAY?

1. **1 Thessalonians 5:16–18** says, “**Always be joyful.**” ¹⁷ **Never stop praying.** ¹⁸ **Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.”**

- When should we be thankful?
- What is God’s will (heart’s desire) for people who believe in Jesus as the Lord (Boss) of their lives?

2. **Philippians 4:6** says, “**Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.”**

- What should we do instead of worrying?
- When we pray about our worries, what should we say to God?

3. **Read Psalm 136.** Psalm 136 begins by declaring God is good, He is in charge, and His love never gives up. Then, the song gives examples of things God has done that prove He is good, He is in charge, and His love never gives up. After every example, the people would all sing “His faithful love endures forever” together. Take turns giving examples of amazing things God has done for us that prove He is good. After each example, we will all say “His faithful love endures forever”. I’ll start. (*Say something like “I’m thankful God created each one of you.” Have everyone say “His faithful love endures forever.”*)

SESSION 2: TALK ABOUT IT

WHAT CAN I DO?

1. The other nine lepers probably felt grateful, but they did not take the time and effort to show their thankfulness. Who can you thank today for the things they do for you?
2. What can help you remember to say thank you every day?
3. We can choose thankfulness in many different ways. Brainstorm ways to show your thanks for your parents, friends, teachers, and emergency responders. Once you have brainstormed, do at least one creative way to give thanks.
4. Take time to show your thankfulness to God. Remember who He is and what He has done.

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