

Jesus Heals Ten Lepers

FOR THE TEACHER:

In this lesson the kids see Jesus' healing ministry and we focus on how all are included in Jesus' healing even though not everyone sees and appreciates who Jesus is and what Jesus has done for them. In this story it is the Samaritan, an outcast among the Israelites, who appreciates who Jesus is and what Jesus has done for him.

Questions marked with an asterisk (*) are part of the Trinitarian Catechism.

FIRST ACTIVITY: Being Thankful. Speak to the kids about being thankful when someone does something special for them. Have them practice being thankful by making a Thank You card for someone special. It can be for a parent, sibling, teacher, etc. Give each child a half piece of paper. Have them fold it in half and draw using markers, crayons or colored pencils. Have each one share their Thank You card and who they are planning on giving it to.

Activity Lesson: Saying "Thank You" or giving someone a Thank You card is a nice way to tell someone we appreciate their kindness and thoughtfulness.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Ask for a helper to pass out a bible to each child. Have them all turn to Luke 17:11-19. For older kids, have them take turns reading.

¹¹Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance ¹³and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

¹⁴When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.

¹⁵One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?" ¹⁸Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well." (NIV)

PRIMARY LESSON: All the men with leprosy are healed because Jesus includes everyone in his healing relationship with the Father. But only one of the ten appreciates and understands what has happened to him.

SECOND ACTIVITY: Fun with straws. For this activity you will need a straw for each child and 10 cotton balls. Try to find colored or fancy straws to make it more fun for the kids. (Let the kids keep their straws after the activity is over.) Line up

the 10 cotton balls in a line at one end of a table. Tell the kids that the cotton balls represent the 10 people with leprosy. Have the kids take turns using their straws to blow one cotton ball at a time down the table to the very end where the "priest" is. As the kids are blowing the cotton balls to the end of the table, ask the kids-

"How many people had leprosy?" (10)

"What did Jesus tell the lepers to do? (Go to the Priest.)

"What happened on the way to the Priest?" (They were healed by Jesus.)

Once all the cotton balls are at the end of the table, ask the kids -

"How many of them came back to thank Jesus? (one)

"Why didn't the other 9 people come back to thank Jesus? (They did not appreciate or understand what Jesus had done for them.)

Next, have the kids use their straws to blow only one cotton ball back to the other end of the table.

PRAYER: For older kids, have one of them pray this prayer (or come up with their own). For younger kids, have them repeat after you as you read the prayer.

Father in heaven, thank you for giving us healing in your Son Jesus Christ. Holy Spirit, help us to know and believe and appreciate all that we have in Jesus and all that our Father has done for us through him. In Jesus' name, Amen.