

LESSON 25

Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers

LUKE 17:11–19



BIBLE TRUTH

THE FORGIVENESS OF OUR SIN IS THE GREATEST HEALING WE CAN RECEIVE

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Luke 17:11–21 from the Scriptures or read story 103, “Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

The Leper’s Story

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ burlap cloth and/or sheets to serve as a costume that will cover your face and body

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

What Kind of Lepers Are We?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 25—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Who Will Be Thankful?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ ten full-size chocolate bars and a package of small bite-size chocolates

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Ten lepers cried out for mercy—The whole countryside was stirring with excitement regarding the ministry of Jesus. He had multiplied the fish and the loaves. He had turned water into wine. He had healed many people. Word reached ten lepers that Jesus was coming to their village. As Jesus approached, the lepers called Jesus by name. They called him “Master,” the title given to a teacher or rabbi. Instead of shouting, “Unclean, unclean!” they called out to the Lord to take pity on them—they called out for mercy.

Ten lepers were healed—When Jesus saw the lepers he immediately sent them off to show themselves to the priest. Since the priest was the one to verify the healing of a leper, there was hope in Jesus’ command. As they obeyed, all the lepers were healed along the way. These ten had lived as outcasts, quarantined, and forced to live apart from their families and friends out of fear of spreading the disease. Now by the power and grace of God, they were well and could return to their families again. Nine of the men never looked back to thank Jesus.

One leper returned to give thanks—Ten lepers called out to Jesus and all ten were cleansed, yet only one returned to give thanks to the one who healed them. The one who returned was a Samaritan. By inference, the others were likely Jews. The Jews, who should have recognized Jesus as the Messiah, missed the greater healing. They left with their leprosy gone, but their sin remaining. Only one man returned to have his faith commended and he was a foreigner, foreshadowing the salvation of all the peoples of the earth.

Where Is the Gospel?

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Though many Jews believed, the Jewish nation as a whole would reject Jesus as the Messiah. Many Gentiles, however, would gladly receive the gospel. Here we see a Samaritan throwing himself at the feet of Jesus. Clearly this man had been healed not only physically but also spiritually. The other lepers found healing; this man found Jesus. By healing the man's illness, Jesus saved his earthly life. But Jesus pointed to a greater healing when he told the man that his faith had made him well. That commendation indicated that God recognized his trust in Jesus and he would be saved. We are also sick with sin and condemned to death. By dying on the cross, Jesus saved us and gave us a greater healing, the forgiveness of our sins.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Luke 17:11–21 from the Scriptures or read story 103, "Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

The Leper's Story

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ burlap cloth and/or sheets to serve as a costume that will cover your face and body

Put on the costume so that your face is covered as well as your body and pretend to be a leper from today's story. Here is a suggested monologue that you can memorize. Alternatively you can ad-lib on your own or recruit an actor from your church to play the role. If you play the role, once you exit the room at the end of the skit, simply remove the leper clothing and return to class as the teacher.

As the children enter, they will see the leper sitting in a corner of the room. Once everyone arrives, the leper should start telling his story in the present tense as though the students live in the same village.

Leper's Monologue

Unclean! Unclean! Leper! Stay away! Unclean! For your own safety, stay away. You are all young. The last thing you want to do is catch this miserable disease. I am sorry, I am not from around here. Several of us lepers have come. There is a teacher, Jesus of Nazareth, who has done great things among his people. Some crippled people have walked. The blind are given back their sight.

But not me, I am a Samaritan. I only find myself accepted by the other Jewish lepers because of my disease. Leprosy doesn't care who you are. Jews, Gentiles—we all are afflicted with this disease. When you have leprosy, the disease is your only enemy.

(Look left, see Jesus, and cry out:) Jesus, Master, have pity on us. Have pity, oh Jesus, have...
(pauses) Go to the priest? *(Turn as though to talk to the other lepers.)* He said go to the priest.

We must go! Come. *(Slowly stand up and walk in slow motion across the room, throwing off the rags covering your face. Turn to the audience with a smile and continue.)*

That, my friends, is just how it happened! In a flash I was healed. Then I ran, and so did the other nine with me. We all ran to see the priest. He was amazed. He didn't know me, but the Jews, he knew each of them. He declared them all clean. He even declared me, a Samaritan, clean. Imagine that! He was so excited, that is, until we mentioned that it was Jesus who healed us. He turned his head and said something about a troublemaker.

The others all went home, but not me. I ran back to Jesus. My family could wait. I wanted more than anything to see him again.

I caught up with him. The moment I saw him, I was overcome with joy. I fell at his feet and praised God and thanked him. I thanked him over and over. He touched my shoulder... (*Touches his own shoulder tenderly where Jesus touched him.*) And then he asked about the other nine.

Then he said something wonderful to me. He said, "Go. Your faith has made you well." My faith. I am still wondering what that means. Well, anyway, I have to go. I hear Jesus is staying with Zacchaeus. I want to see him again. (*Exit the room.*)

Return to the room and lead the class in the following discussion questions:

- **What most affected you in the story?**
- **What did you learn about Jesus from this story?**
- **What is the significance of the returning leper being a Samaritan, not a Jew?**

Challenge them to draw near to Christ. The Lord has done so much for us. We have every reason to come back to him with thankful hearts every day.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

What Kind of Lepers Are We?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers

The object of this lesson is to help the class identify with the lepers. Like the lepers, Jesus has healed us of our sin and provided so much for us.

Ask the class the following questions:

- **How are we like the lepers?**
(*We have sinful hearts that need to be cleansed by Jesus.*)

- **The lepers were called to go to the priest as a demonstration of their faith. Does God call us to do anything as a demonstration of our faith?**
(Yes. We must believe the gospel and be baptized.)
- **What is the gospel?**
(Draw out a complete answer from your class.)
- **What else besides our salvation should we thank Jesus for?**
(Every breath we take, everything we own, our family, and the Bible are all blessings from the Lord.)
- **How can we make sure we are not like the ungrateful nine lepers?**
(We can thank Jesus every day for our salvation and for everything else he gives us.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 25—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **Who do you see in the picture?**
(Jesus and the one leper who returned to thank him.)
- **What happened to the other nine lepers?**
(They were healed too, but they did not come back to thank Jesus. See if the children can find them in the picture.)
- **Why do you think this man returned?**
(God had done more for this man than take away his sickness; God had also touched his heart.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Who Will Be Thankful?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ ten full-size chocolate bars and a package of small bite-size chocolates

The object of this lesson is to help the children identify with the lack of gratitude of the nine lepers.

Early in your class pull out ten of the bite-sized chocolates and ask a student if he or she wants one. Toss it to them from a distance. This should set off a cascade of requests. Toss out the remaining nine. You and your helpers should listen carefully to see if anyone says thank you. (Hopefully, at least one of the children will. You have ten full-size bars in case they all do.)

Ask one of the children to pray to open up the class. Then go on to read the story of the ten lepers.

Go back to those who said thank you and give them one of the large chocolate bars.

Then ask the following questions:

- **If I did the exercise all over again, how many would say thank you now?**
(Everyone would say thank you because they now know they would get a large chocolate bar.)
- **So, what was better: the first blessing (little chocolate) or the chocolate bar?**
(The larger chocolate bar was better.)
- **What was better for the lepers, their physical healing from leprosy or knowing Jesus?**
(The answer, of course, is knowing Jesus. The leper who returned is the only one who is commended for his faith.)
- **If the other lepers knew who Jesus really was, just like realizing the chocolate bar was better, what should they all have done?**
(They should have returned.)
- **We know who Jesus is. How should that affect the way we live?**
(Each breath, each day, is another gift and a reason to praise the Lord. We should praise Jesus every day.)

LESSON 25 - JESUS CLEANSSES TEN LEPERS

