

The Thankful Leper — March 5, 2023

BEFORE CLASS LESSON PRIMER

Romans 1:20-21

For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused.

What is the significance of what you are teaching the kids this week?

In the first chapter of Romans, Paul talks about the fact that God reveals Himself from heaven to every human being in the world. His wrath is revealed against all unrighteousness and ungodliness of men. The reason they are ungodly and unrighteous is that they suppress the truth of God, which He reveals to every man, leaving them without an excuse. He goes on to say that knowing God, they did not honor Him as God, neither were they grateful.

There are two primary sins that are the most basic of all sins. They are the root of every other sin, and they are two sins of which all human beings in their natural, unconverted state are guilty. Those two sins are the refusal to honor God as God and ingratitude toward God.

If I were to ask you, "What's your most base sin, your worst action of evil?" would you come up with something like failure to be grateful to God? Hardly, but there it is in the Scriptures that ingratitude toward God is our fundamental problem. We think that God owes us everything we receive and much more.

If a person is truly grateful, he shows it, and he shows it in worship and service to God. That is the part of this passage that is so precious—the response of the man who was healed: "With a loud voice he glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks." Then it says that he was a Samaritan. A leper, strike one; a Samaritan, strike two; a social outcast, strike three—yet he fell at the feet of Jesus to thank Him.

All of us have suffered from spiritual leprosy at some time. The disease of sin is destroying each of us. We are lepers by nature, and the God of all mercy and grace, through His beloved Son, has made us clean. If it be that we are in Christ Jesus, we should shout our thanksgiving to Him and fall at His feet in honor, adoration, and worship. That is why we are here. We have been made clean, and we come to give praise and thanks.

Do you see it? It is your story, it is my story, and it is God's story. How do you show your thanks to Christ? How do you give glory and honor to your Redeemer? That is what we are about: saying thank you.

IN CLASS LESSON PLAN

WELCOME Acknowledge the students by name, introduce any new friends

PRAY You can pray as the leader or ask a student to pray.

SING Encourage students to clap, dance, make a conga line, and sing.
Slugs and Bugs Sing the Bible—The Ten Commandments
Slugs and Bugs Sing the Bible—Stars

READ Luke 17:12-16

THE THANKFUL LEPER — LUKE 17:12-16

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. But they called to him, "Jesus! Master! Please help us!" When Jesus saw the men, he said, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." While the ten men were going, they were healed. When one of them saw that he was healed, he went back to Jesus. He praised God in a loud voice. Then he bowed down at Jesus' feet and thanked him.

WATCH [The Thankful Leper \(Luke 17: 11-19\) - YouTube](#) (turn off the lights)

QUESTIONS

1. Who was Jesus? (Jesus is the Son of God and Savior of the world.)
2. How many people came to Jesus? (10) How does the Bible describe the men? (They are lepers.)
3. What is leprosy? (Leprosy is a terrible contagious disease that destroys our skin and leads to death.)
4. Where did the people with leprosy live? (They lived outside the town.) What were they called? (Unclean)
5. What did Jesus ask them to do? (He asked them to "go show themselves to the priests".)
6. Why did Jesus ask them to go to the priest? (The priest was like a health inspector and the temple was in town. This meant they had to trust that Jesus had healed them, or they would be breaking the law and they would get into very big trouble for going back in without permission.)
7. What happened as the men went to obey Jesus? (They were healed of leprosy in their skin.)
8. How many of the ten men came back to thank Jesus for healing them? (Only one.)

ACTIVITY Activity Sheet/Free Time

SING Doxology (Right before kids head upstairs for pick-up in the chapel after church)

FOCUS

The focus of this lesson is on the faith of the leper who came back to say thank you. He was the only one of the ten who understood that Jesus was special and worthy of his thanks and his worship. We all are healed by Jesus of the disease of sin. We too should thank Him and worship Him.