

Sunday between October 9 and 15 – year C

Preparation

Read [Luke 17:11-19](#). Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearc/properc23.htm>

<http://children.calvarychapel.com/site/pdf/New/Curr212.pdf>

<http://www.msscrafter.com/newtestament/lepers.htm>

http://www.sermons4kids.com/thankful_leper.htm

<http://www.ebibleteacher.com/children/lessons/sick.htm>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/pen19les.htm>

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/c/28-c/A-28-c.html>

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Green cloth
- Newsprint and markers

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you.

With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the Bible on the cloth.

Light the candle. Pray the following prayer together:

Loving God, creator of us all, be with us today.

Loving Jesus, friend of us all, show us the way.

Loving Spirit, helper of us all, stir us with love everyday. Amen.

Blow out the candle. Print the word “**Thanks**” up on the newsprint. Ask the children to name all the things they are thankful for today (in Canada it is the Thanksgiving weekend). Print up each thing as they tell you about them. Now ask the children who they give thanks to for all the things they are thankful for (hopefully someone will say God). Explain that in today’s story Jesus does something special and they will need to pay attention to find out who says thanks.

Story Time

Instructions

- Get settled together in a comfortable way to hear and tell today’s story.
Ask the children to tell you how many fingers they have (10).
Explain that in today’s story they will need to use all of their fingers to help tell the story.

Jesus was walking with his friends down the road. They were on their way to Jerusalem on the road between Samaria and Galilee. Now the people who lived in Galilee and in Jerusalem didn’t like the people who lived in Samaria. They thought the people in Samaria were dirty and that God didn’t love them.

Have the children use their fingers to pretend to be walking.

They came into a small village along the way. As Jesus and his friends were walking, ten very sick people who had a disease called leprosy. Now in Jesus’ day everyone thought leprosy was a disease that kept you separate from God.

Have the children count out to ten using their fingers.

The ten sick people stayed far away from Jesus and his friends. They called out to Jesus, saying, “Jesus, please help us. Have mercy on us.”

Have the children count out to ten using their fingers.

When Jesus saw them he said, “Go to the temple. Show yourselves to the priests.”

As the ten began to walk away, they all looked at themselves and realized that they had been healed. One (*raise one finger*), two (*raise two fingers*), three (*raise three fingers*), four (*raise four fingers*), five (*raise five fingers*), six (*raise six fingers*), seven (*raise seven fingers*), eight (*raise eight fingers*), nine (*raise nine fingers*) walked away to go the temple as Jesus had told them.

Have the children use their fingers to pretend to be walking.

The tenth one (*raise ten fingers*) did something different. When he realized that he was healed he turned around. He came back to Jesus. He fell on the ground before Jesus. He began praising God. He thanked Jesus for what Jesus had done for him. He kept saying, “Thank you Lord. Thank you Lord.”

Jesus looked at the man and realized he was a Samaritan. Jesus looked at his friends and asked, “Were not ten healed?
How come only one came back to say thank you and give praise to God?
How come the one from another country came back?”

*Have the children hold up all ten fingers
Have the children hold up one finger.*

Jesus said to the man, “Get up and go. Your faith has made you well.”

The man went on his way and told everyone that he met what God, through Jesus, had done for him.

Response

Project Idea 1: Thank You Cards

We all need to give thanks to God regularly for the gifts that we have been given. These cards will be a way for the children to give thanks directly.

Materials needed

- card stock
- markers
- magazines
- glue sticks and scissors
- glitter
- small pieces of tissue paper

Instructions

Fold the card stock in half. Have the children look through the magazines, for younger children do this ahead of time, to find pictures of things they want to thank you God for.

Have them cut out the pictures and glue them on the outside of the card – think collage style and get the children to overlap the pictures. On the inside of the cards have them print, again the younger ones will need help with this, “**Thank you God**” with a marker. If you have time let them decorate the inside words by spreading glue on them and then shaking glitter over the words. Remember to shake the excess off into another container or the garbage.

Have the children bring the cards with them to church and give them during the offertory as their way of saying thanks to God for all the gifts that they have been given.

Project Idea 2: Prayer Hands

All around the world today Christians are praying to end poverty as part of the ongoing work with the Millennium Development Goals. This response will be a way for the children to connect illness, poverty and healing and take part in a larger world wide action.

Materials needed

- construction paper
- fine line markers or pencil crayons
- scissors and glue sticks
- glitter
- large envelope
- address of a local federal politician
- [Micah Challenge website](#)
- [leprosy commentary website](#)

Instructions

Leprosy and other diseases today (tuberculosis, HIV and malaria) are all worse for people if they are contracted in the midst of poverty. Look over the two websites above and gather the information that you might need to share with the children in your group. Find the address of your local federal politician and print it on the envelope. Explain to the children that today all around the world, Christians are praying to end poverty and asking their governments to keep their promises to help end poverty. Tell them that the craft that they make will be used to share

that message with a leader in your government and it is important for us to share these messages with our leaders. Give each child a piece of construction paper and have them trace their hand onto the construction paper with a marker or pencil crayon. Have the older children cut their hand shapes out and help the younger ones with this part. Help them print on one side of their hand **“We are praying”** and on the other side **“That the world keeps its promises”**. If you have enough time have the children, spread glue around the edges of their hands with a glue stick and then sprinkle glitter on the glue. Have them shake them off into another container to reuse the glitter later. When they are done have each child put their hand into the envelope. Before you mail the envelope, put a small note in with it explaining that your church school is praying for those who don’t have enough in the world and wants to remind them that our government made promises about the *Millennium Development Goals* to help cut poverty significantly by 2015.

Project Idea 3: Thankfulness Placemats

Materials needed

- poster board
- magazines
- markers
- scissors, glitter and glue sticks
- clear contact paper

Instructions

Fold the poster board in half and cut it in two. Then cut those halves in half and cut them into two. You will be able to get four placemats from each piece of poster board. If you have enough time go through the magazines and cut out pictures of happy families, food, people sharing, water, clothes, homes, nature, pets and anything else you can think of that the children will want to express their thanks. Print in the middle of the placemat **“Thank you, God, for everything”**. Give each child a prepared placemat and have them look through the pictures already prepared or look through magazines for pictures themselves. Explain that they are put on their placemats anything that they especially want to thank God for today, just like the leper who went back and thanked Jesus. Read the words in the middle to the children or have a reader do that for you. Have the children glue down their pictures around the words. When they are done, if they want, let them spread glue on the words and then sprinkle them with glitter. Get them to shake the excess off into another container for use later. To complete the placemats, cover them with clear contact paper. Suggest to the children that as they use the placemats, they will help them remember the person who came back and thanked Jesus for the work that he did and that we need to give thanks every day.

Closing

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candle. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

Thank you God for loving care;
Thank you Jesus for loving choices;
Thank you Spirit for loving ways. Amen.