

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 ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 103)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) . . . 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT Lesson 25—one for each child; markers or crayons

The Power to Heal

SUPPLIES: one piece of red construction paper; scissors; transparent tape

Ten Cleansed

SUPPLIES: five yards of burlap purchased at a garden center or fabric store (Cut the burlap in ten 18-inch pieces to use as costumes for the children playing the lepers.)

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children will learn that Jesus heals us of our worst disease: our sin.

Pick two children with obvious differences in hair color or clothing. (Avoid using racial differences.) Stand them side by side and ask the class to identify differences in hair color or clothing. Ask the children if God loves one child more than another.

Guide the children to recognize that God does not love one person more than another. Explain that all men and women are made in the image of God. Then tell the children that the same love applies to people wherever they come from. Tell them about two places mentioned in the Bible—Israel and Samaria. Though the people living in these places did not like one another, God loved them equally.

Jesus died on the cross for all the people of the world. In heaven, there will be people from every race, tribe, and nation standing before the throne of God worshipping.

Take time to pray and thank God for his love. Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 103, "Jesus Heals Ten Lepers," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- What is this story about?
(*The story is about Jesus healing ten men of leprosy.*)
- What is leprosy?
(*Leprosy is an infection that leaves sores on your body.*)

■ Why did the men want Jesus to heal them?

(A person with leprosy was cast out and could not even live with his family, so these men would have been very sad. They must have heard that Jesus had the power to cleanse them from their sickness.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

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

■ How are we like the lepers?

(We all need Jesus to heal us of our sin.)

■ How is our sin like the sickness of the lepers?

(No one but Jesus could heal the lepers. The doctors of their day had no cure for leprosy, and no one but Jesus can heal us from our sin.)

■ Jesus told the leper that his faith healed him. What does it mean to have faith?

(Faith is believing that something you cannot see is true. The leper believed he would be healed and left to go to the high priest to be evaluated. Then he had faith to go back to Jesus and worship him even though Jesus looked like an ordinary man. The leper believed Jesus was God.)

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.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 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.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

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.)

The Power to Heal

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ one piece of red construction paper
- ✓ scissors
- ✓ transparent tape

Before class cut out ten small (one half- to one-inch in diameter) irregularly shaped pieces from the red construction paper.

Pick a volunteer from among the children and tape the red cutouts to his or her face and arms. Tell the class that the red paper represents leprosy and then ask them, Who thinks I can take away this person's leprosy?

The children should all agree that you can take away this person's leprosy. Then go about the task of removing the construction paper cutouts. Ask the children the following questions:

- Was it hard for me to take away the red spots?
(No, it wasn't hard for you.)
- Was it hard for God to take away the sickness of the ten lepers?
(No, it wasn't hard for God to take their sickness away.)
- What do we learn about God from this story?
(We learn that God is all-powerful and can do anything.)

Ten Cleansed

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ five yards of burlap purchased at a garden center or fabric store

To prepare, cut the burlap into ten half-yard long pieces (18 inches each). This will give you a shawl-like costume for ten children playing the lepers. (You can reduce this to three lepers if you have a smaller class or want to spend less time in this activity.) If you wish to get more creative, cut a few strips to wrap around their hands.

The idea is for ten of the children (or as many as you have) to play the role of the lepers. You and a helper can play the roles of Jesus and the high priest. Symbolize the cleansing of the lepers by having the children drop their burlap and call out that they are healed. Have the children act out the scene just as the text records it.

Have all but one walk away from Jesus. Only one healed leper turns back to thank Jesus. The nine that walk away can then become the audience for the rest of the skit. The one who walked back to Jesus should say, "Thank you for cleansing me." The skit concludes with Jesus blessing the returning leper.

Explain to the children that the only one who returned was a foreigner, a Samaritan who would normally dislike Jesus just because he was an Israelite. Then explain that this story tells us that later the Jewish people would reject Jesus, but

non-Jewish people called Gentiles would receive him. In the end, Jesus and the message of the gospel would come to all people, not just Jewish people.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today's lesson.

LESSON 25 - JESUS CLEANSSES TEN LEPERS

