

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 . . . . . 15 MIN**

**Ten Things We Learn in the Story of the Ten Lepers**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker
- ✓ simple leper costume consisting of a torn sheet and a rope belt
- ✓ Bibles for the class

**4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION**

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

**5. OBJECT LESSON 2 . . . . . 5 MIN**

**The Jews Should Have Known**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ Bibles for the class

**6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 MIN**

**7. ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 15 MIN**

**The Ten Lepers**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ heavy paper cut into 1½- by 6-inch strips
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

**8. CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

**9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 20 MIN**

**The Story on Broadway**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ eleven sheets or towels for costumes
- ✓ other costume extras, such as a few walking sticks or rope belts or sandals
- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

**TOTAL 80 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.

## A LITTLE BIT MORE

*Samaritans*

After the northern tribes of Israel fell to foreign invaders, the Israelites who remained in the land sinned and intermarried with foreigners. Their worship was corrupted for they worshiped foreign gods but still claimed to worship Yahweh. Because of this their descendants were not allowed to participate in rebuilding the temple a few generations later (Ezra 4:2–5). They also claimed that Mount Gerizim in the north, not Mount Zion in Jerusalem, was the true place of worship. Eventually they came to reject all of the Old Testament, except the books of Moses. The Jews despised the Samaritans. “Samaritans” came to be applied not just to those who lived in Samaria, but to all those who followed this cult.

## 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 . . . . . 15 MIN

##### Ten Things We Learn in the Story of the Ten Lepers

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker
- ✓ simple leper costume consisting of a torn sheet and a rope belt
- ✓ Bibles for the class

Come dressed in costume as the leper who was healed. Have the class turn in their Bibles to Luke 17:11–21 and read the story aloud. Then ask the class to see if they can find ten things that we learn from the story of the ten lepers. Write down their answers on the board.

1. Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. There he would suffer and die for the sins of those who would place their faith in him.
2. Jesus walked between Samaria and Galilee and was met in a town by ten lepers. Jesus' hometown, Nazareth, was in Galilee. The group of lepers we learn, included both Jews and Samaritans who were traditionally hostile to one another. (See "A Little Bit More.")
3. Jesus' reputation went before him. The lepers shouted his name, Jesus. (See also Luke 5:15.)
4. The lepers called Jesus Master (Teacher), honoring Jesus as one who has authority. They called to him for mercy, coming to Jesus with humility.
5. The lepers obeyed with faith the words of Jesus. When we obey the word of God we receive blessings from our faith. They went to the priest. (See also Leviticus 13—14 for regulations concerning showing oneself to the priest.)
6. Jesus had authority, demonstrating his power over disease by healing the lepers.
7. Only one man turned back. Where did the others go? Presumably to see their families.
8. Only one man praised God. Jesus was more than a teacher, he was God.
9. Only one man fell at the feet of Jesus, giving him thanks.
10. Only one man, a Samaritan, was completely cleansed of sin.

Use these last four points to emphasize how important it is to come to Jesus with thankfulness. Ask the class if they know what Jesus has done for them and then share the gospel message.

### TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

**OBJECT LESON 2 . . . . . 5 MIN**

**The Jews Should Have Known**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ Bibles for the class

Have the children look up and read Zechariah 13:1 and then ask them what this verse has to do with today's Bible story.

1. Zechariah foretold the day when the Messiah would come and bring healing to God's people. Jesus was the one Zechariah was talking about.
2. Jesus would bring two kinds of cleansing—from sin and from uncleanness. The nine Jewish lepers who did not return to give thanks were cleansed of their leprosy, but only the Samaritan who returned to Jesus was commended for his faith and received forgiveness for his sin.
3. The fountain that is opened is the cross. Jesus, the Lamb of God, gave up his life so that forgiveness of sins would flow to God's people and both Jew and Gentile would be saved. The fountain became a fountain of his sacrificed blood.

The Jewish lepers, who likely knew the Scriptures, should have recognized Jesus and returned to give him thanks, but they failed to recognize him as the promised Messiah who would heal God's people of both sin and uncleanness.

**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 . . . . . 15 MIN**

**The Ten Lepers**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ heavy paper cut into 1½- by 6-inch strips
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Give each child a strip of paper and have them make a bookmark listing what they are grateful for. They can draw a picture from the story of the ten lepers on the back to remind them of

the leper's faith and his thankfulness to God. Suggest that they tuck it into their Bibles as a reminder.

**CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

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

**BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 20 MIN**

**The Story on Broadway**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ eleven sheets or towels for costumes
- ✓ other costume extras, such as a few walking sticks or rope belts or sandals
- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

Tell the class you are going to do a reenactment of the story of the ten lepers. Choose one volunteer to play the role of Jesus, another to play the role of the leper who returned, and nine others to play the role of the lepers who were healed but did not return. Additional children can play the roles of family members and the priest to whom Jesus said they should show themselves.

Have Jesus and the leper look through the passage and write down their lines (Luke 17:11–21). The leper who returns should make up a few lines to explain why he returned to thank Jesus.

Tell the other nine lepers they should come up with something creative to say as they walk along the way and realize they are healed. (Help the class be a bit humorous here by saying things like “I’m healed! I can’t wait to sink my teeth into a juicy hamburger.”) The point is that the nine never think about returning to thank Jesus.

After giving the class some time to come up with their routines, perform the skit.

Connect this lesson with the students’ lives. On the whiteboard make a list of the blessings they have as children born into Christian homes. Ask them whether they spend enough time thanking Jesus for all the blessings they have.