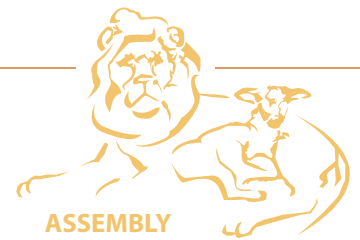


JESUS CLEANSSES TEN LEPERS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 17:11-19



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

TEN CLEANSED

Supplies

one 50 foot roll of
landscaping burlap

Cut the burlap in ten 5 foot pieces to use as costumes for the children playing the lepers. You can simply use the burlap as a shawl over the children or get more creative and cut a few strips to wrap around their hands.

The idea is that ten of the children, (or as many as you have) play the role of the lepers. One of the teachers or an adult male guest can play the role of Jesus and another adult play the role of the high priest. Symbolize the cleansing by the children dropping their burlap and calling out that they are healed. Have the children act out the scene just as the text records it.

Have them all walk away and only one turn 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, the message of the Gospel, would come to all men, not just Jewish people.

JESUS CLEANSSES TEN LEPERS

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THE POWER TO HEAL

Supplies

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

Cut out ten irregular shaped pieces from the red construction paper, about ½" to 1" large.

Pick a volunteer from among the children and tape the red cut-outs 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 cut-outs. Ask the children the following questions:

- Was it hard for me to take away the red leprosy? (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.)

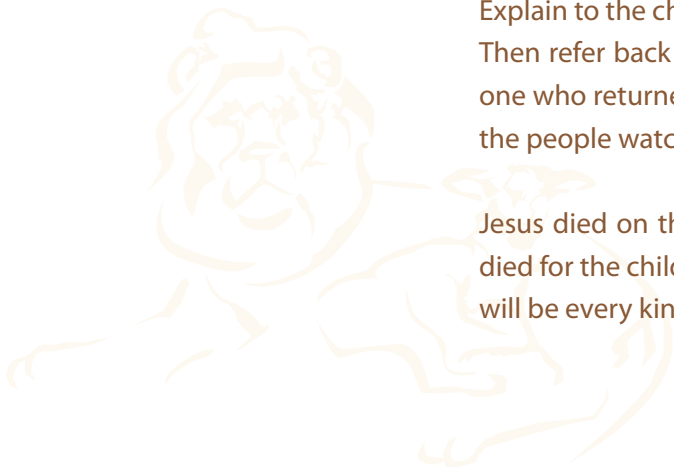
GOD LOVES ALL MEN

Pick two children with obvious differences in hair color or size. (Avoid using racial differences for this exercise to avoid causing an offense.)

Stand them next to each other and ask the class to identify differences in hair color or size. Ask the children if God loves one child more than another.

Guide the children to report that God does not love one person over another. Explain to the children that all men and women are made in the image of God. Then refer back to the story where it explains that a Samaritan leper was the one who returned to give thanks and how that would have been surprising to the people watching because Jews and Samaritans did not like one another.

Jesus died on the cross for all kinds of people with all different looks. Jesus died for the children of God who are all made in God's image. In heaven, there will be every kind of people standing before the throne of God worshipping.



JESUS CLEANSSES TEN LEPERS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 17:11-19

WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

All ten lepers were cured of their disease but only one came back. The other nine, presumably Jews, did not return.

This story illustrates that the Jews would reject Jesus as the Messiah and that salvation would be available to Gentiles as well as Jews. Most of the children in your class are likely to be Gentile. God, through Christ, would allow Gentiles to have faith and trust in God and be born again. The returning leper not only thanked Jesus but praised Him as God.

