

The Thankful Leper



Theme: Don't forget to say, "Thank you" - Proper 23 (28) Year C

Object: A "Thank You" card

Scripture: Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?" Luke 17:17 (NIV)

A friend of ours recently had a baby and we sent them a gift for the new baby. Last week I received this "Thank You" card in the mail. Inside of the card it says, "Thank you so much for your gift. It was just what we needed for our new baby." You know, it really made me feel good that our friends took the time to send us a card to say, "Thank You."

Don't you just hate it when someone does something nice for you and your mother prompts you by saying, "Now, what do you say?" You knew what to say, didn't you? We all know what to say, but unfortunately, we sometimes forget to say it. That is what happened in our Bible lesson today.

Our Bible story today is about ten lepers. Do you know what a leper is? No, it is not an animal with spots on it. That's a leopard! However, a leper does have spots. A leper is a person who has a disease called leprosy. This disease causes sores all over the body. Leprosy was very common in Jesus' day, and people who had this disease were thought to be unclean. They were required to stay away from other people because of the fear that they might infect them with their disease.

One day, Jesus was walking through a small village when he saw a group of ten lepers. They stood far away from Jesus and called to him, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us." Obviously, they knew who Jesus was and that he had the power to heal them. When Jesus heard them, he called back to the lepers and said, "Go, show yourself to the priest."

As the lepers went on their way to see the priest, they looked at their skin and the sores were gone. Jesus had healed their disease. They were so happy that they ran up and down the streets singing and dancing. Suddenly, one of them stopped and went back. Praising God with a loud voice, he threw himself at Jesus' feet and said, "Thank You." Jesus said to him, "Weren't there ten who were healed? Where are the other nine?" Only one out of ten remembered to say, "Thank You."

God does so much for us! Every day he provides everything we need: food, clothing, and a place to live. Do we ever forget to say, "Thank You?" Let's stop right now and say "Thank You" and ask God to help us remember to thank Him every day.

Activities

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT! An activity written by La Juanna Kotis to help the children review what they have learned in the lesson about Jesus healing the ten lepers. The children will enjoy moving around the room and making some noise, but the activity will also reinforce what they have learned. [CLICK HERE](#) for complete instructions.

CLASS THANK YOU COUNTING: The teacher will have everything put away and all the chairs stacked and as the children come in. The teacher will hand each child a chair and see how many children say, "thank you." For FUN and to keep the children's curiosity up for a while, the teacher can have a little score board on the chalkboard and every time she hears a thank you, she can rush to the scoreboard and add a mark to keep track of how many THANK YOUs she receives. The teacher can also hand out other things, such as supplies or a treat, and keep track of the THANK YOUs. Children will find out during the lesson what was being scored (kept track of).

CLAY THANK YOU: Roll modeling clay into long snake-like rolls to be formed into letters to say THANK YOU for children to take home. Each child will need a piece of cardboard covered with construction to lay their words on!

THANK YOU CARDS: Provide the children with a tri-fold card made out of construction paper for them to write or draw a simple THANK YOU card to someone they would like to THANK. Stickers and markers will make for good decorations and maybe a piece of gum to glue onto one of the folds to give away.

CLASS THANK YOU: Each class member takes a turn DOING something for another class member, who will in return say a loud THANK YOU! If teacher feels the children won't be able to think of anything, the teacher can have each child pick a slip of paper that will have an idea for what they can do if they need help.

THANK YOU SPOTS: Put a large poster board on the focal wall of the classroom that all the children can see as they enter the room. After the lesson today, all the children will take turns in going to the poster and writing THANK YOU on one of the spots and their own initials! Children can be creative in how they write their own THANK YOU -- different colors or THANK U, THX, thank you; THANK YOU, THANX or in another language. Questions and discussion about the SPOTS in our lesson and who said THANK you to Jesus!

THANK YOU TREE: On a piece of construction paper, the children will trace their arm and spread-out hand to form a tree and branches. Each child can draw some leaves on the "fingered-branches" and write THANK YOU in various decorative ways, and take home to hang for a fall picture and a remembrance of how important it is to say THANK YOU 2 JESUS (which can be the title of their TREE page).

"U" are in JesUs and JesUs is in U so we are very THANKFUL! Find words that have "U" in them - crUcified, JesUs, resUrrection, etc. Children may be able to find other words with "U" in it to remind them all that we have to be THANKFUL for!!! "U" have other things to be thankful for --- because Jesus said that "U" can pray; U were thought long before U were born; 4 U Jesus was born and died; His great love 4 U!

THANKFUL LEPER: The children should each be given a small paper lunch bag to decorate with spots of leprosy for a puppet. Bright colored markers could be used for THANK YOU written on their bags and let children use the bags to tell today's story and to say THANK YOU to the teacher or other classmates throughout the teaching time.

THANK YOU COLLAGE: Provide a large colorful poster board and many magazine or book pictures of things that children can be thankful for. The children can take turns gluing the pictures that they've chosen from all the pictures available to the THANKFUL poster board.

PLEASE AND THANK YOU JUMP ROPING: Divide the children into teams. One team can be the PLEASE TEAM and the other team will be the THANK YOU TEAM. The children can take turns to see how many JUMPS they can do before tripping. Each team will add up their points to see if the Please team or the Thank You team wins.

CIRCLE PLEASE: Children will gather in a large circle and take turns around the circle with each child saying PLEASE _____, giving their ideas of things to say PLEASE for, such as things they would ask for or things they would like to do or PLEASE to places they would like to go.

"Please" and "Thank You"



Theme: Very important words: "Please" and "Thank you" - Proper 23 (28) Year C

Object: A "Thank You" card, or perhaps a stuffed Barney toy

Scripture: Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?" Luke 17:17 (NIV)

They may be the most important words in any language...do you know what words I am talking about? I'm talking about the words please and thank you. There is a big purple dinosaur named Barney that I see on TV that sings a song called "Please and Thank You." He calls them "the magic words." This is what Barney says:

He's talking 'bout please and thank you,
They're called the magic words,
If you want nice things to happen,
They're the words that should be heard,
Remember please and thank you,
'Cause they're the magic words.
(Words & Music by Phil Parker © 1992 Shimbaree Music)

When I was a child and asked my mother for something, she would often remind me to say "please" by saying, "What's the magic word?" Then, after she gave me what I asked for, she would remind me to say "thank you" by saying, "Now what do you say?" I knew what to say, but sometimes I would forget. We all know what to say, but unfortunately, we sometimes forget to say it.

Our Bible story today is about ten lepers. A leper is a person who has a disease called leprosy. This disease causes sores all over the body. Leprosy was very common in Jesus' day, and people who had this disease were thought to be unclean. They were required to stay away from other people because of the fear that they might infect them with their disease.

One day, Jesus was walking through a small village when he saw a group of ten lepers. They stood far away from Jesus and called to him, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." Obviously, they knew who Jesus was and that he had the power to heal them and they asked very nicely. When Jesus heard them, he called back to the lepers and said, "Go, show yourself to the priest."

As the lepers went on their way to see the priest, they looked at their skin and the sores were gone. Jesus had healed their disease. They were so happy that they ran up and down the streets singing and dancing. Suddenly, one of them stopped and went back. Praising God with a loud voice, he threw himself at Jesus' feet and said, "Thank You." Jesus said to him, "Weren't there ten who were healed? Where are the other nine?" Only one out of ten remembered to say, "Thank You."

God does so much for us! Every day he provides everything we need: food, clothing, and a place to live. Do we ever forget to say, "Thank You?" Let's stop right now and say "Thank You" and ask God to help us remember to thank Him every day. Dear Lord, please answer when we call. Give us relief from our troubles, and have mercy upon us in our time of need. We give thanks with all our heart. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.