

Children's liturgy – Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: Green

Props: Coloured pens and pencils.

Song suggestions: My Jesus, my Saviour (895, *Celebration Hymnal for Everyone*)

Welcome: Today we hear about how ten people with skin disease (lepers) were healed by Jesus but only one of them said 'thank you'. Let's think about the importance of saying thank you to each other and to God.

Opening prayer: God of grace and mercy, we give you thanks for all the great things you have done for us. May we turn to you with thanks and praise. Amen.

First reading (optional): Kings 5:14-17

Psalm: Psalm 97:1-4. R. Cf.v.2

Gospel acclamation: everyone stands and sings the acclamation together. Suggestions include: 'Halle, halle, halle' (Caribbean) from 'Sing With the World', Alison Adam & John Bell; 'Alleluia' (Zimbabwe), Abraham Maraire Publications, WCC & GIA; 'Celtic Alleluia' (traditional); 'Alleluia! Raise the Gospel' from 'Go Before Us', Bernadette Farrell, OCP Publications.

Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from today's reading?

We are often reminded how important it is to have good manners. When we ask for something, we should say *Please*. And when we receive something, we should say *Thank you*. Do you often get told to say please and thank you? Who by?

By being thankful we show we're happy with what we've got and we recognise how generous the other person has been by giving it to us. Can you think of a time when you were very grateful to someone? How did you show your thanks?

Today we hear that Jesus gave the amazing gift of good health to ten men who all had a skin disease called leprosy. But what happened afterwards? Did all the men say thank you for the gift they had been given?

While all ten men were happy to receive the gift, only one of them gave thanks to Jesus and praised God.

Many people with this illness lose all of their fingers and toes because of the disease. It is very painful. People with leprosy couldn't get too close to others for fear of spreading the illness. They couldn't even hug their families or friends anymore.

Can you imagine how hard that must be? Imagine if you weren't able to hug or be close to the people you love, how would you feel?

On the way to see the priest the men noticed their skin had changed, the leprosy was gone. They were healed!

How do you think the men felt when they realised that they were well again? What do you think the nine men who didn't return to Jesus did instead?

Perhaps they ran home to their families and friends. After all, they'd been living away from them for ages. Can you imagine how excited they were and how happy their families must have been to see them and hug them again? Though the nine other men were really happy to be healed, they didn't return to Jesus to give thanks for what he had done.

Only one man went back to show how grateful he was for what had been done for him - for the gift of health and a new life with his family.

What has God given to you? (*Give some examples if you need to eg a family, friends, all the animals and plants in the world, love, talents etc*).

Like the man who returned to Jesus, we should try to praise and thank God at all times for the amazing things that we have been given.

How will you show God your thanks this week? Will you use words, pictures, actions?

Intercessions: *You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or you can use the suggestions below.*

Let us show our thanks to God as we pray together:

We pray for the Church: that it may always be a place of healing love which welcomes all people. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for our brothers and sisters in every country, especially those who are ill: that they may find comfort and support from those around them and get the care that they need. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for nurses, doctors and healthcare workers: that they may be strengthened in their work to make the world a better and healthier place to live. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may be moved to care for all people who are sick with tenderness and compassion. Lord in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Loving Lord, may we never fail to recognise your healing love. Help us to remember our blessings and fill our hearts with gratitude and thanksgiving. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Ask the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and to write or draw what they are thankful for under the banner. Ask the children to think about the importance of saying *thank you* each day.

Ask the children to get into pairs, to pray for each other by saying - *God bless [name of child] always. Amen.* Or they can make up their own words, and then ask them to thank each other for their prayers.

Ask the children to role play the story but with the nine lepers all coming back to say *thank you* each using different words or actions.

Ask the children to thank God this week in the home, at school and with friends. You could ask them to write a thank you prayer, for all the things that God has done for and given to them.

Ask the children to make a thank you card, thanking someone who has done something nice for them or given them something in the last week.

Saying thank you is one way we can brighten up someone's day. Friday was Harvest Fast Day, think some more with the children about how they could Brighten Up and build a brighter world. Resources and activities to spark ideas are available from cafod.org.uk/primary

Ask the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today. Ask them to remember to thank God in their prayers and to say thank you when appropriate to other people in the coming week. Ask them to do what they can to Brighten Up and help build a brighter world this week.