

Liturgy of the Word with Children
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C
13 October, 2019
Luke 17:11-19

Catechist Background

We revisit last week's theme of God's goodness as an unmerited gift with a real-life example. 'Leprosy' was a catch-all term to refer to a variety of skin diseases, some of which, like eczema and psoriasis, are not contagious. Even clothing and houses could have 'leprosy' (see Leviticus 13)! Having 'leprosy' was one thing that would make a person 'unclean' (so would touching a leper, eating pork, touching a wild carcass, or being a Samaritan); only a Temple priest would have the authority to pronounce them 'clean' if their condition disappeared and they performed the specified purification rites. Until then, there were strict rules about how close they could get to 'clean' people. As they could not be gainfully employed, they tended to live on the edges of towns and villages, depending on begging from a distance for their survival. As with most afflictions in biblical times, leprosy was seen as a divine punishment for some wrongdoing.

The fact that the Samaritan returns to Jesus immediately is also notable; under ordinary circumstances a Samaritan would not be permitted to approach a good Jew. Perhaps he is aware that he may never again be able to get near enough Jesus to thank him personally.

Setting the Scene

For the activity described below, you will need a small amount of modelling clay or play-dough for each person. Alternatively, you could use paper and colouring materials for everyone to draw with.

We Say Sorry

Leader: You bring healing to those who are troubled, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: You cast our sadness away, Christ have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: You restore our relationship with you, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

We Pray (1)

God, help us to love you by being good to other people. Amen.

Gospel Intro

It may be helpful to remind the children about the concept of gratitude (or thankfulness) if it surfaced in your reflections last week. You may also want to explain a bit about leprosy and how people with leprosy were forced to be kept apart from the rest of the community in Jesus' time.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

- Why did the ten lepers come to Jesus? What did Jesus do for them?
- Who returned? Why was that surprising?
- In Jesus' time, lots of people thought that only the Jews were loved by God and would be saved. But Jesus healed the Samaritan too—what does that teach us today?

Response

Give each child a small amount of clay/play-dough. Invite them to model something that they are grateful to God for. Allow each child to stand up in the group and say what they have made and why, if possible. You may be able to incorporate these items into the offertory procession in the main body of the church.

We Believe

Relating to the creed what you have shared with the children, ask this series of questions and invite the children to reply, 'I do.'

- Do you believe in God the Father, who gives us all good things?
- Do you believe in Jesus, God the Son, who came to heal and save everybody?
- Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit who strengthens and works through us?

We Pray (2)

Again, try to relate the bidding prayers to the reading by saying, 'We know you are still at work, healing our world, and so we also now pray...'

Leader: We pray for bishops and priests and deacons, that they may recognise God's commands. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for scientists and doctors and inventors, that they use their skills to make the world a better place. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for anybody who is ill. We especially pray for people with leprosy and other skin diseases. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for anybody we know who is missing their friends or their families or anybody else. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, just as you healed the ten lepers, we are called to follow in your footsteps. Help us to show your healing to everyone we know. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

