

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 23**  
**Lesson Plans for Younger Children**

**Scripture: Luke 17:11-19**

**Choices:** What situation do we find ourselves, right here and now, in which we have a choice? What is preventing us from making it? Are possessions, in fact, possessing us? For some of us the choice might be to rearrange our priorities, even make a career change, or maybe it is to faithfully deal with what is on our plate. For all of us, Jesus invites us to follow him.

**A Notation for This Week's Gospel**

What do we take for granted, not pausing for even a moment's gratitude? Healed, nine lepers raced off. One, an undocumented alien, came back to say thanks. Are we choosing to show gratitude?

**Theme: Choosing Gratitude**

**Before:** You will need a large bandage or a strip of cloth to serve as a bandage, several Band-Aids, white paper, crayons, and white glue.

**Beginning:** Ask the children if any of them have ever had a bad sore on their arm and had to wear a Band-Aid? (You could get the stories going by telling about a time you hurt your arm and had to wear a bandage. If you brought the large bandage, you could place it on your arm to re-enact the story.) Then tell the children that today we have a story about some people who had bad sores on them, so bad that people did not want to come near them.

**Praying:** Thank you, God, for healing people and for reminding us to say thank you when we feel better. Amen.

**The Story:** Jesus and his friends were walking along the road. As they got to a town, 10 people with sores all over them came up to Jesus. They did not get too close to Jesus because they knew no one wanted them to get close. But they called out to Jesus: "Jesus: Please help us!" Jesus knew that for these people to be allowed to come close to other people, they would first have to go to their priest who could see if they were well. Jesus reached out and made them well. And he told them to go show themselves to their priest. Off they went leaping and dancing and shouting, and singing because now they were well. One of them, only one of them, stopped and said, "Oops!" and raced back to Jesus to say, "OH thank you, Jesus, for making me well!"

"Hmmm," said Jesus. "Weren't there 10 of these people? Yet only one of them came back to say thanks."

"Hmmm," said Jesus. Then he said to the one who came back, "Thank you for remembering to say thanks. Now go on and live your life. You are all well."

**Activity:** This movement activity suggested for this session would be good to do outside, if weather and your situation permit.

Invite the children to pretend that they are the ten sick people. Play some music and let the children move around as if they haven't been healed yet. Then, have one of the children pretend to be Jesus and heal them. When they are healed, invite them to dance differently to show their thanks and their joy.

**Activity:** Invite the children to put something about this story on our cross. Give the children pieces of paper and let each child draw one of the lepers, leaping and dancing with arms high in the air. Let the children decide which leper is the one who came back. Cut that leper out of the paper and glue the leper onto the cross.

Alternatively, you could invite the children to write "Thank You" on a band aid and put them on the cross.

**Getting Closure:** Put the cross in the center of your group. Invite the children to tell you why they think it is important to say thank you. Wonder with them about how grateful the ten sick people must have been when they had been healed. See if anyone wants to tell the story of any of the other items on the cross.

**Closing Prayer:** Thank you, God, that Jesus healed the lepers. Thank you for everyone who is healed. Amen.

*Printed by the Office for Formation and Vocation Ministries of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, 815 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017.*

*© 2012 The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. All rights reserved.*

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 23**  
**Lesson Plans for Older Children**

**Scripture: Luke 17:11-19**

**Choices:** What situation do we find ourselves, right here and now, in which we have a choice? What is preventing us from making it? Are possessions, in fact, possessing us? For some of us the choice might be to rearrange our priorities, even make a career change, or maybe it is to faithfully deal with what is on our plate. For all of us, Jesus invites us to follow him.

**A Notation for This Week's Gospel**

What do we take for granted, not pausing for even a moment's gratitude? Healed, nine lepers raced off. One, an undocumented alien, came back to say thanks. Are we choosing to show gratitude?

**Theme: Choosing Gratitude**

**Before Class:** You will need Bibles or copies of the scripture for today. You will need a large piece of paper (newsprint or poster board), strips of construction paper large enough for a child to write a few words on, felt markers or crayons, and white glue.

**Beginning:** Tell the children that the story we have today is about some people who had leprosy and then were cured by Jesus. Ask what they know about the disease leprosy. (Leprosy is a disease of the skin caused by bacteria and it is sometimes highly contagious. It is fairly easily treated now, but was rarely cured in Jesus' time.)

**Opening Prayer:** Thank you, God, for helping us notice those things that make us grateful. Amen.

**The Story: Luke 17:11-19** Invite one reader to read verses 11-14 and another to read 15-19.

**Questions:**

- Lepers usually were required to stay a great distance from other people. Why do you think they took the risk to come near to Jesus? (Perhaps they had heard stories of Jesus healing others and hoped he would heal them.)
- Why did Jesus tell the lepers to go show themselves to the priest? (He had cured them and a priest had to certify that a cured leper was really cured and could rejoin society.)
- I wonder why the nine lepers to race off? (They knew immediately that they were cured and wanted to get to the priests quickly? They were doing what Jesus told them to do? They were so excited they flat forgot? They intended to come back and thank Jesus after they saw the priest? We don't know, so any answer could be correct.)
- I wonder why the one leper to return and say thanks? (He was so amazed at his health that he simply had to go back and thank Jesus? Being a Samaritan [a looked-down on foreigner], he was even more surprised that Jesus would heal him? He had a grateful heart and usually remembered to say "thank you?" We don't know, so any answer could be correct.)

**Option: A different ending**

Invite the children to imagine two different endings to this story. If there are sufficient children, form two groups and give each group one of the options. If not, ask them to plot the two different endings, one after the other. The children could act out what they have chosen.

**Ending One:** The 10 lepers race off. The 10th leper tries to talk the other nine into going back with him to say thanks. What do they say and why don't they go back?

**Ending Two:** The nine lepers race off and after they see the priest they sit down and have a conversation about what they should do. Go back and find Jesus to say thanks, or just go on with their lives. The children decide.

**Activity: Gratitude Collage**

On the large piece of paper, invite a child to write in the middle of the piece of paper the words, "Thank you, Jesus" in big bold letters. Then put the pile of construction paper pieces and crayons where the children can reach them. Ask them to write things for which they want to thank Jesus.

Encourage the children to keep thinking of things for which they are grateful and when they have a pile of "grateful notes" invite them to glue the pieces on the piece of paper, arranging them as they choose. Make sure you participate as well.

**Option:** If you are using journals, allow enough time for the children to write in their journals. You could pose this topic: Here is something I am grateful for, but I wanted to keep it private so I did not write it on one of the slips of paper.

**Getting Closure:** Discuss what kinds of things help us to remember to say, "Thank you." We remember our mother prompting us, something inside us wants to say thanks, saying thank you makes us feel better!

**Closing Prayer:** Thank you, God, for all the things we have noticed for which we are grateful. Help us to stay grateful as we go into the world this week. Amen.

---

**Luke 17:11-19****Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers**

11 On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup>As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, <sup>13</sup>they called out, saying, ‘Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!’ <sup>14</sup>When he saw them, he said to them, ‘Go and show yourselves to the priests.’ And as they went, they were made clean.

<sup>15</sup>Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. <sup>16</sup>He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup>Then Jesus asked, ‘Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?’ <sup>18</sup>Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?’ <sup>19</sup>Then he said to him, ‘Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.’

*Printed by the Office for Formation and Vocation Ministries of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, 815 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017.*

*© 2012 The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. All rights reserved.*

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 23**  
**Lesson Plans for Adults**

**Scripture: Luke 17:11-19**

**Choices:** What situation do we find ourselves, right here and now, in which we have a choice? What is preventing us from making it? Are possessions, in fact, possessing us? For some of us the choice might be to rearrange our priorities, even make a career change, or maybe it is to faithfully deal with what is on our plate. For all of us, Jesus invites us to follow him.

**A Notation for This Week's Gospel**

What do we take for granted, not pausing for even a moment's gratitude? Healed, nine lepers raced off. One, an undocumented alien, came back to say thanks. Are we choosing to show gratitude?

**Theme: Choosing Gratitude**

**Before Class:** You will need Bibles or copies of the scripture and copies of *The Book of Common Prayer*. If you have a laptop, it would come in handy. If not, paper and pens to scribe what the group comes up with will be needed. If you do not know about how leprosy affects people today, you might want to search on internet for some examples.

**Beginning:** Ask the group to consider this statement: "This person has an attitude of gratitude." What would be some things you might say about that person? Then ask them to be thinking of a person they know who would fit our description.

**Opening Prayer:** Thank you, God, for opportunities that help us stop, notice, and be grateful. Be with us today as we explore gratitude and your love for us. Amen.

**The Scripture: Luke 17:11-19** Invite someone to read the passage for today and then sit quietly for a moment.

**Questions:**

- I wonder what stood out for you in this passage?
- Contrast leprosy in Jesus' time with leprosy in our time. (Then it was almost impossible to treat and people afflicted were shunned. It can be successfully treated with contemporary medical treatments.)
- Why did Jesus tell the lepers to go show themselves to the priests? (Jesus knew that although he had healed them, they would have to be certified as healed by the priests to be allowed to re-enter society.)
- I wonder why the nine lepers raced off so fast? Invite the group to come up with some potential reasons. (Eager to get certified and get back to their families; so blown away at the healing that they were not thinking clearly; perhaps they intended to come back and thank Jesus once they were certified as healed and could get close to Jesus.)

- I wonder why the tenth leper came back. I wonder what he was thinking. (Perhaps he tried to convince the others to turn back but was unsuccessful; perhaps he had an attitude of gratitude and just had to turn back; perhaps he had been ill longer than the others so felt greater relief.)

**Getting Closure:** Tell the group that they have been commissioned to draft a section for our *Book of Common Prayer*. Ask them to turn to page 810 and following, and notice how many "bidding" (asking for things) prayers there are (72) and how many Thanksgiving prayers (beginning on page 836 there are six pages with 11 prayers) there are.

Tell the group that an attitude of gratitude would long for more "thank you" prayers so we are going to pretend that we have been commissioned to produce some. If time permits you and the group could compose prayers for the occasions you have noticed. If time is short simply list the topics you notice. (For the sound of children's voices in our church, for people who drive people to church, etc. for example.)

**Closing Prayer:** Thank you, God, for (and include what the group has noticed.) Amen. *Alternatively* you could end with a prayer that the group has written in gratitude.

---

## Luke 17:11-19

### Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers

11 On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup>As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, <sup>13</sup>they called out, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' <sup>14</sup>When he saw them, he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were made clean. <sup>15</sup>Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. <sup>16</sup>He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup>Then Jesus asked, 'Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?' <sup>18</sup>Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' <sup>19</sup>Then he said to him, 'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.'

*Printed by the Office for Formation and Vocation Ministries of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, 815 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017.*

*© 2012 The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. All rights reserved.*