

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.

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