

## LESSON PLAN

### TEN LEPERS

#### Luke 17

**Lesson Memory Verse:** Ephesians 5:20 - “**Giving thanks always for all things unto God** and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Grades 1 & 2 memorize the portion in **bold**.)

**Lesson Aim:** To teach students to give thanks to God for everything.

**Lesson Plan:** Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

**KEY (for Attention):** The story is told of a farmer who was invited to eat at the home of a well-educated man. When they were seated around the table filled with food, the farmer bowed his head and thanked God for all the food as he always did at his table at home.

The well-educated man waited until the farmer had finished his praying and then said, “You are very foolish. Do you not know that educated people no longer pray over their food at the table?”

The farmer told his friend that this had always been his practice, but that some of his household never prayed over their food. The well-educated man was pleased to hear this and said, “Now, they are the educated and sensible ones in your house. Who are they?” The farmer replied, “They are my pigs!”

Ask children for what things they should thank God. Write their answers on the whiteboard or, better still, have pictures of things that they could mention and show them when they are mentioned.

Memorize today’s memory verse to remind you to thank God for everything

**HE (for Authority):** Our memory verse tells us to **give thanks unto God**. He is the One who gives us all the things that we need to make us like His Son, Jesus Christ. So we ought to thank Him for these things. I am sure that it will surprise you by the many things He gives to us. Our memory verse goes on to tell us that we are to give God thanks **always**. That means we are to thank God for everything: for sickness as well as health, for poverty as well as wealth, for enemies as well as friends, for problems as well as solutions. He gives us all things to make us like Jesus Christ. Eventually all these things will turn out to be a blessing to us. Then we are told to give thanks **in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ**. Jesus Christ is the source of every blessing, which begins when He saves us and will continue throughout eternity. Give thanks in His name.

**SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word.** In today’s lesson we are going to hear about ten men who received a wonderful gift from Jesus Christ. What did they say to Him? And what did He say about them? Listen to the story and you will find the answers to these questions. But first, I want to tell you story that Jesus told about serving God and the thankful attitude we ought to have as we serve Him.

#### I. The Parable of the Unprofitable Slave - Luke 17:7-10

Jesus told a parable (a made-up story to teach a certain truth) of a slave who worked hard for his master all day and when he came home, he changed his clothes, and served his master his food before he sat down and ate his own food. We would think that this was a very good slave, and that his master was very thankful to have him. But that was not the whole story. You see the master paid a very high price for his slave and his slave would never be able to work enough to pay back all the money he had spent on him. Therefore, the slave was unprofitable for the master, even though he worked hard for him.

**WE:** We became slaves of God when we received Jesus as our Savior. Before we were saved, we were slaves of sin and Satan, but Jesus bought us by His death on the cross, so now we are slaves of God, but He treats us well. We will never be able to work hard enough to pay back God for all that we owe Him. So that means we are unprofitable slaves to God. Yes, He loves us, but we are unprofitable to Him. Yes, He wants to keep us, but we should not expect Him to thank us for working so hard for Him. We know from our memory verse that we are to thank God for everything, even though sometimes it may be hard to do, but God never has to thank us for anything because we are unprofitable slaves. BUT God is very kind and gives us many gifts, even after He has saved us. He gives us so much and we give Him so little in return; that is why we should love Him and thank Him for everything as our memory verse says.

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### II. The True Story of the Ten Lepers -- Luke 17:12-19

A. Jesus came to a village (17:12-13).

1. Ten lepers lived in this village (12).

Leprosy is a skin disease that forced a person who had this disease to live apart from the rest of the people. They had to stand away from people and warn them that they were unclean. It was a terrible disease to have.

**WE:** We are like lepers in a spiritual sense when we have our sins. We are unclean to God and cannot come into His presence. That is why we will go to Hell when we die.

2. Ten lepers came to Jesus (12-13).

The ten lepers stood afar off from Jesus and cried out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." They treated Jesus with respect by calling Him, "Master." They came to the right person for mercy; Jesus is very kind and healed many people of various diseases while He was on earth. They did the right thing by asking for Him to heal them. The Bible says, "You have not because you ask not" (James 4:2). It is okay to ask Jesus for anything that you need; big things and even very little things that you need.

**WE:** We should depend on Jesus for everything that we need it. He told His disciples, "Ask, and you shall receive that your joy may be full" (John 16:24).

B. Jesus answered the lepers (17:14).

1. Jesus told the lepers to go to the priests. It was the law that a person who was healed of leprosy had to go to the priest to be checked (Lev 13:2-46) and then he had to be ceremonially cleansed of his leprosy (Lev 14:2-32). The lepers obeyed his command, which showed their faith in Him to heal them.

2. The lepers were healed as they went to the priest.

**WE:** We please God when we put our faith in His Word and obey Him (John 14:21, 23).

C. One leper gave thanks (17:15-16).

1. When he saw that he was healed, he returned to Jesus to glorify God with a loud voice (15). His loud voice indicated he was deeply moved by being cleansed of leprosy.

2. He fell down at Jesus' feet, showing that he worshipped Him, and gave thanks to Him.

3. He was a Samaritan. Samaritans were despised by the Jews because they were a people of mixed marriages between Israelites and Gentiles. The Jews considered them to be unclean spiritually.

**WE:** We need to thank God and worship Him for answering our prayers (Philippians 4:6).

D. The response of Jesus (17:17-19).

1. Jesus asked, "Were there not ten cleansed, but where are the nine?" (17) Jesus deserved to be thanked by all ten lepers, but nine of them neglected to honor Jesus for His priceless gift to them. Only one honored Jesus by his thanks and worship. It is important to thank God for His gifts to us.

2. Jesus' opinion of the lepers (18-19). He was displeased with the nine lepers that did not return to glorify God. They were too concerned about their cleansing to give God thanks. He was pleased with the Samaritan and told him that his faith had healed him.

**WE:** We will show what kind of faith we have in God by the thankfulness that we show Him. Let us remember to thank God for all of His gifts to us (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

**BE (for Action):** Ask each child to mention one thing for which they are thankful to God. Then ask them to thank God out loud in prayer for the thing they mentioned. Do not force them to pray, but encourage them. It is also a good time to encourage the children in your class to thank God for sending Jesus to save them from their sins. If any have not received Jesus as their Savior, it is a good time for them to do it.