

# 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## HEALING OF THE LEPER

This week we learn about the disease of leprosy – a painful skin disease that is also very contagious. In Jesus' time, people who had leprosy were cast out from the community and forced to live in isolation. The leper shows great faith in Jesus when he moves closer to Him. This shocks the crowd because it was against the law for someone with leprosy to approach a healthy person in that time. It was even more shocking to see Jesus reach out and touch the man with leprosy, healing him of his disease. Jesus does this to show that the Kingdom of God is about love and compassion for all people, no matter what.

### PRIMARY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

**The leper had faith in Jesus even before the miracle.**

*Scripture Resources:* [Luke 7:9](#)

*Catechism Resources:* [CCC 2616](#)

**Jesus shows mercy because He understands suffering and feels compassion.**

*Scripture Resources:* [Hebrews 4:15-16](#); [Mark 2:1-12](#)

**The leper shares with others what Jesus has done for him because he is thankful.**

*Scripture Resources:* [Luke 17:11-19](#)

*Catechism Resources:* [CCC 1148](#); [CCC 2637](#)





## PONDER: EXPLORE KEY THEMES FOR THE WEEK

*Look for opportunities throughout the week to ponder with and communicate these truths to your child(ren). Use the questions below each objective to explore the topic throughout the week. Remember that our faith is a mystery and you don't always need all the answers. Refer to the Parent Guide for more recommendations on pondering with your child(ren).*

### FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN:

#### *Learning Objectives*

## 01 The leper had faith in Jesus even before the miracle.

*To help your child ponder this idea, ask:*

- Have you ever heard stories about people you have never met doing something great? Who was the person and what did he/she do?
- Why do you think the leper broke the law and went near Jesus?
- What happened to the leper when Jesus touched him? Why do you think that happened?

## 02 Jesus shows mercy because He understands suffering and feels compassion.

*To help your child ponder this idea, ask:*

- What do you think Jesus thought or felt when He met the man with leprosy?
- Jesus didn't have to cure the man, why do you think He chose to?
- What do Jesus' actions teach us about how we should treat others, especially those who are sick or have a disability?

*Stand up and go;  
your faith has saved you.*

### 03 The leper shares with others what Jesus has done for him because he is thankful.

*To help your child ponder this idea, ask:*

- When others do good things for us, we are thankful. What are some ways you show others you are thankful for the things they do for you?
- What are some ways people have thanked you for the good things you do for them?
- How do you think the man felt after Jesus cured him?
- What are some ways you can share with others that you are thankful for Jesus' love?



#### FOR OLDER CHILDREN

##### *Learning Objectives*

### 01 The leper had faith in Jesus even before the miracle.

The man with leprosy took a risk approaching Jesus. It was an act of faith. He trusted Jesus, and we can too. We can approach Jesus in prayer and the Sacraments with our needs and hurts.

*To help your child ponder this idea, ask:*

- Have you ever wondered what the man with leprosy was feeling when he approached Jesus? (Remember, it was against the law for a leper to go near others.)
- What gives you courage to do things you have to do even when you are afraid?

## 02 Jesus shows mercy because He understands suffering and feels compassion.

Compassion means to “suffer with” someone. Jesus has the love of God and wants to show us we do not suffer alone. God cares for all of His children, no matter what they may be suffering from or what they do. God sent Jesus to show us mercy, to be with us when we suffer, and to heal us. Jesus shows us how to trust that God always takes care of us and we should all care for one another.

*To help your child ponder this idea, ask:*

- Sometimes, when people are sick, we have to stay away from them until they get better. Why do you think we have to do this?
- Even though we have to stay away from some sick people, what are some ways we can still show them we care about them and want to help them feel better?
- What do you think we can learn from this story?
- When you are sick or suffering, who stays with you and takes care of you?
- What are some ways you can ask Jesus to heal you when you are sick or feel alone?

## 03 The leper shares with others what Jesus has done for him because he is thankful.

The man tells everyone about what Jesus did for him, even though he was asked not to. He was so overwhelmed with gratitude to Jesus for taking the leprosy away that he couldn't keep it to himself. He wanted everyone to know how thankful he was to Jesus for showing mercy and compassion and making him well again.

*To help your child ponder this idea, ask:*

- If someone told you a secret about something exciting, do you think you could keep it? Why or why not?
- Why do you think Jesus asked the man not to tell anyone what He did for him?
- The gospel says that the man told everyone anyway, why do you think he didn't keep the secret?
- Has Jesus ever done anything special for you or your family? What are some ways that you can say “thank you” to Jesus for these special gifts?



## LISTEN: FAMILY LECTIO DIVINA

*Read the passage listed below for this week's family Lectio Divina time. Ask what your child's favorite part is or what stood out to them. Ask what God may be trying to show your child through the chosen scripture. Please refer to the Parent Guide for further recommendations on doing Lectio Divina with children.*

[Mark 1:40-45](#) - The Cleansing of a Leper



## PRAY: SPECIAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

St. Damien followed the example of Jesus by caring for people with leprosy on the island of Molokai in Hawaii. His feast day is May 10 — the date he arrived on the island. You can find more information on the life of St. Damien of Molokai online. As a family, pray the [Prayer of St. Damien of Molokai](#), which we recite at Mass on the Feast of St. Damien of Molokai:

*Father of Mercy, Who gave us in St. Damien a shining witness of love for the poorest and most abandoned, grant that, by his intercession, as faithful witnesses of the heart of your Son Jesus, we too may be servants of the most needy and rejected. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*



## ACT: CONCRETE WAYS TO LIVE OUT THIS WEEK'S THEME

**FOR FAMILIES:** Plan a time this week when your family goes to Church and spend 15 minutes quietly before Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament to just say "thank you." To prepare for your time with Jesus, take some time to create a list of all the things you are grateful to Jesus for.