

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

Jesus heals ten lepers that he meets on the road. Only one of the ten returned to thank Jesus. This leper was considered to be an outsider by Galileans for two reasons. First, leprosy was dreaded, contagious, and legally obligated the afflicted to live apart from society. Second, the leper was a Samaritan, which meant he had a different nationality and religion. Jesus looked beyond the differences between himself and the leper and taught that God's love is for everyone.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Your child has learned the importance of thanking and has named actions for which to say "thank you." The session also taught that Jesus cares for those whom others leave out. Talk with your child about family members and the many things in your home for which you need to say thanks. Ask to see the "Thank You Prayer Card" your child has put together. You can say this prayer together before dinner or before going to bed.

Promise (Grades K–1): In this week's session your child thanked God for the gift of creation. He or she learned about Jesus' parable through a story about a teddy-bear picnic. Ask your child to tell you the stories of the picnic and of the ten sick people. Talk about ways your family can say thank you to people who do good things for you.

Good News (Grades 2–3): This week's lesson focused on the people who provide care. Your child learned that Jesus' love for people is shown in his healing acts. Jesus shares his love and life through the Seven Sacraments. Ask your child to tell you the story of the ten lepers in his or her own words. Share ways that your family can show gratitude to those who provide you with help and service.

Venture (Grades 4–6): As part of a sharing of the Sunday Gospel, the class discussed times when they have been thankful to God. Ask your child to share with you the stories of Bishop Bartolome de las Casas and of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha. Talk about how these two people reached out to people in need. Discuss members of your community who may be in need. How can your family serve them?

Visions (Grades 7–8): Your child's class performed a play about St. Francis of Assisi. Part of his growth in faith was his encounter with a leper on the road. The leper was an outcast, just like the ones we met in Sunday's Gospel. When Francis embraced the leper, he realized that in God's eyes there were no outcasts. Ask your child to share what he or she learned from the lesson of Francis. Discuss the definition of prayer and the five kinds of prayer they learned about today—blessing, adoration, petition, thanksgiving, and praise.

Pray Together

When your conversation is finished, join hands and let each person in the family mention some blessing that he or she is grateful to God for providing. After each person has contributed, together say: "Heavenly Father, we thank you."