

## **Giving Thanks**

This lesson focuses on giving thanks to God for all that He has done for us. In the gospel of Luke we read the story of the 10 Lepers who were healed by Jesus. One of these men returned and thanked Jesus for healing him, but the other nine forgot. We know that God is worthy of our praise now at Thanksgiving and all year. This lesson will encourage children to thank God for all that He has done for them.

Everything in our lives comes from God. We often forget to offer Him thanks and praise, but we should remember to always lift our eyes to the Lord and be grateful. It's also important to say thank you to important people in our lives who help us along the way.

### **Manners Test**

Give each child a small item, like a sticker or a little snack. Wait to see who says "thank you" in response to the gift. For bonus emphasis, you might take back the item if a student does not say thanks! Or merely give lavish praise for those who do remember to say thank you.

The story of Jesus healing the ten lepers contains several important insights. For kids, one obvious takeaway is the value of gratitude and saying thank you— both to people and especially to God. This story also includes a message of the mercy of Christ. He healed the stricken men, and even though only one returned to say thank you, He did not punish those who neglected to do so. Another interesting note is that the man who did come back was a Samaritan, typically looked down on in Jewish

culture. This lesson focuses largely on the element of thanksgiving, but feel free to use whatever methods and emphasis you prefer to communicate the Scripture.

Explain to children that they will be discussing the importance of being thankful and talking about how we can show appreciation to God and to one another. At the same time, God's grace and mercy cover us even when we neglect to be openly grateful.

***Have you had chicken pox?***

***If so, you probably had to stay home from school for a long while.***

***If you had gone to school some other children might have caught the disease from you. That's because chicken pox is contagious—people can easily catch it. In today's lesson we will read about 10 men who had a contagious disease.***

# Jesus Heals 10 Men with Leprosy

One day Jesus and the disciples were walking to Jerusalem. They traveled a road on the border between Galilee and Samaria. Just as they were entering a village, 10 men called, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

Jesus looked around. He saw lepers' shacks built outside the village. He saw men dressed in ragged clothing. He saw bandages wound around their feet and hands.

Instantly Jesus knew that these men were lepers.

Jesus felt very sad when He saw the lepers. He knew how much they wanted to be well again.

Long before Jesus lived on earth, Moses had given some rules about leprosy: when the first sores of leprosy appeared on a leper's skin, he or she had to show them to the priest. The priest would look very closely at the sores and then send the person away. After a set time, the leper returned to the priest. If the sores had not healed, the priest would say the person was unclean because he or she had leprosy.

Lepers had to live outside the village. They were not allowed to return to their families unless the sores healed. And though lepers hoped and hoped, leprosy did not heal.

Nine of these lepers were Jews and one was a Samaritan. They had heard of Jesus.

They held their arms out to Jesus and begged Him to help them.

"Go, show yourselves to the priests," Jesus called.

For just a moment the lepers may have been disappointed. But then they understood.

They knew why Jesus was sending them to the priest.

The lepers knew they would have to show themselves to a priest. If the priest said they were healed, everyone else would welcome them back into the village. They could go home and live with their families again.

"What are we waiting for?" they probably asked as they hurried to find the priest. As they ran, the feeling returned to their feet and hands. The sores went away. They were truly healed!

As much as the Samaritan wanted to reach the priest with the others, he stopped. He turned around and ran back to Jesus. Praising and thanking God, the man fell at Jesus' feet.

"Thank You," he whispered. Then, louder, "Thank You, Thank You. Thank You!"

The story of the ten lepers is a great reminder that we need to express gratitude in word and deed. It's important to communicate to children that this lesson is about the grace and mercy of Jesus, and to remind them that He makes all wonderful things in our lives possible.

## **Youtube Video:**

[https://youtu.be/1\\_QOhNJ1Zuc](https://youtu.be/1_QOhNJ1Zuc)

## Thank you Card

### **You will need:**

- Construction paper
- Stickers
- Scissors
- Ribbon
- Pens/decorative material
- Rock (optional)

### **Procedure:**

1. Fold paper in a card-like shape (double or four-way fold).
2. Add captions and words of thanks.
3. Dress up the card with stickers, ribbons, and drawings, as desired. Don't forget to write a special note inside!
4. For an additional fun thank you gift, decorate a stone or craft rock with markers or paint. Add a caption like "you rock"!



# Skittles

## Prayer for Thanksgiving

**Orange** - Pray a prayer of thanks to God for everything he has given you: your family, your friends, your church, food, clothes, shelter, toys and anything else you are thankful for.

**Yellow** - Pray for someone in your life you are thankful for by name. Pray specifically for that person that God would bless them. If they don't know Jesus as their Savior, pray that God would help you tell them how much Jesus loves them.

**Green** - Pray and ask God to show you how you can give to others this holiday season. Pray that God would show you someone you can help out by spending time with them or giving them something they need.

**Purple** - Pray for those who may not have food or family to spend time with this Thanksgiving. Pray that God would comfort them and provide them with food and with people in their life to show them love.

**Red** - Pray that as Christmas season begins after Thanksgiving people would remember that Jesus is the reason we celebrate. Pray that people who don't know Jesus as their Savior will come to know Jesus as their Savior this Christmas.

Eat these Skittles as you pray for this Thanksgiving season

Happy Thanksgiving!!