

# 15. Jesus and a Thankful Man

dwell.



## 15

# Jesus and a Thankful Man

**Leader Notes:**

- View [this session's focus](#), faith nurture goals, leader devotional, and story symbol (click on the story symbol to download or print).
- For the full set of DWELL Flex story symbols use the link in the sidebar.
- Need this as a PDF? Just [print this page](#) and choose to save/print as a PDF.

*Take a few moments to greet the children and let them know how glad you are to see them.*

**I love exploring God's story with you. Let's get ready to do that together.**

## Breathe

*Use this time to focus your attention on God.*

**Do this with me: calm your head, heart, and hands as you slowly breathe in . . . and out.** *(Demonstrate a few deep "in and out breaths" with eyes closed.)*

## Tell and Wonder

**Let's enter God's story together. Here's the story symbol for the part of God's story that we'll be spending time in today. I wonder what clues it gives us about the story we're about to hear?** *(Show the story symbol. Accept any answers without giving away whether or not the kids have guessed correctly.)*

**Listen closely as we read the story together to see which story our symbol represents.**

*Read "Jesus and a Thankful Man" aloud (below), pausing throughout to allow children to answer the wondering questions. NOTE: It's always a good idea to read through the story beforehand so you'll be able to tell it well.*

*You can also read the story from a children's Bible or a simplified translation of Scripture like the New International Reader's Version (NIRV). Remember to pause throughout to allow time to wonder.*

## Pray

Close with prayer. Thank Jesus for providing physical healing and cleansing the heart of the one man who believed in his power. Thank Jesus for loving us and coming to earth to clean our hearts too.

See [5 Ways to Pray with Kids](#) for other ways to pray.

## Respond

Select and do one or more of the response activities from God's Big Story card #102\* or check out [5 Ways to Retell a Bible Story with Kids](#) for some fun ways to retell this story. Include older kids in the retelling by having them read the story aloud while the younger children act it out.

\*God's Big Story cards can be ordered from [FaithAliveResources.org](http://FaithAliveResources.org).

## Easy Extra

Whether you're meeting in person or virtually, invite the children to make "before" and "after" pictures that tell the story of Jesus' miracle—and the response to it. Ask kids to use both sides of the paper, showing the story of the sick men before they met Jesus on one side and the sick men after they met Jesus on the other side. Save time to share your pictures with each other.

## Story: Jesus and a Thankful Man [Luke 17:11-19](#)

*Tell the kids:* In today's story, ten men had a skin disease called leprosy. It was a serious skin disease and, because during Bible times there was no way to make someone with leprosy well, nobody wanted to be near people with that disease in case they might catch it too. All the people who had skin diseases were sent away from their family and their friends. People would cross the street to get as far away as possible from a person with leprosy. What's worse, if a stranger came close to them, people who had leprosy had to call out, "Unclean! Unclean!" so the stranger would know to stay away. If the disease did go away, the person would go to a priest, who was the only one who could say that he was clean and give him permission to go back home.

**Here's how our story begins.** Read [Luke 17:11-13](#) aloud from your Bible.

Imagine the scene. Jesus is walking down the street on the outskirts of the city when suddenly ten men appear, coming as close to him as they were allowed, but not breaking the rule. **If you had been with Jesus that day, what would you have thought when ten men with a disease you thought was contagious suddenly came toward you and called out to you?** (Pause for responses.) **What do you think Jesus thought when he saw these ten men who had a disease everyone was worried about catching?** (Pause for responses.)

Now here's a curious thing. **What did they call Jesus?** (Pause for responses.) **I wonder how they knew that he was Jesus and not just another traveler.** (Pause for responses.)

Jesus looked at them and said, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." Stop a minute and think about this. **Do you think they will do that? After all, they can see the spots on their skin. They know the illness is still there. What do you think?** (Pause for responses.)

The truth is, when Jesus told them to go—they went! The Bible doesn't tell us whether they talked about it for a while or had a hard time deciding what to do. They all went—all ten of them—to the village, straight to the priests. **Why do you think they took right off and headed to the priests?** *(Pause for responses.)*

Then a miracle happened! The Bible says that as they went, they were made clean. With every step they took, Jesus was healing their bodies. When they looked at each other, they saw healthy skin! And when they looked at their own arms and legs they knew for sure that Jesus had healed them! Happy thoughts filled their minds. How wonderful it would be to move back into their homes, to be with their families and to do the things they loved to do with their friends. **I wonder what their faces looked like as they noticed what was happening. I wonder if they started shouting or laughing or anything else as they travelled.** *(Pause for responses.)*

The men raced to the priests as quickly as they could—well, almost all of them. Although all ten men were healed as they went, only nine of the men kept going straight to the priests. One of the men—a man people didn't like because he was from Samaria—stopped when he saw that his body was healed. Instead of going to the priest, he turned around and came back to Jesus. He realized that Jesus had healed him! He recognized that Jesus had amazing power to heal. He knew that Jesus had changed his life forever. There was no way he was going to go one more step without thanking Jesus first.

This man was so happy, so thankful, that as he went back to Jesus he jumped for joy and shouted praises to Jesus over and over again. **Can you picture him yelling and jumping and praising Jesus all the way back?** *(Pause for kids to imagine this sight.)* When he got back to Jesus, the man didn't just kneel down in praise. He threw himself on the ground in front of Jesus and praised him. He was one grateful man!

Jesus said, "Weren't there ten men that I healed? Where are the other nine? Is there no one besides you who would return to praise and thank God?" Then Jesus said to the thankful man, "Rise up. Go! Your faith has made you well."

*Look at your story symbol together as you point out that the thankful man did more than thank Jesus because his skin was healed. The man who came back had true faith in Jesus. He believed in Jesus' power to make him well. When Jesus said, "Your faith has made you well" he was telling this man that he wasn't just healed on the outside. Because of his faith Jesus healed him the most important way of all—on the inside!*

## Looking for More Activities for This Story?

Click below to access the full age-specific *Dwell* session for this story:

- [Preschool: Jesus Heals Ten Sick Men](#)
  - [Kindergarten-1st Grade: Jesus and a Thankful Man](#)
  - [2nd-3rd Grade: Jesus and a Thankful Man](#)
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