

15. Healing Lepers

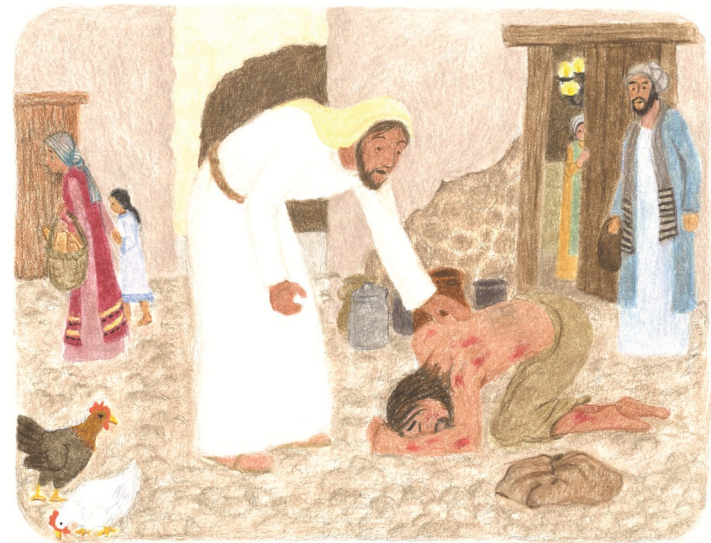
The Word of the Lord: The New Testament for Young Children

Notes for Parents & Teachers

15. Healing Lepers

- a) Leprosy is an infection mainly affecting the skin, nerves, and the eyes. It is curable these days, but in Biblical times it was greatly feared. Those who had leprosy were isolated, often carrying bells to warn of their being around. It was known that one could recover from leprosy, because the Old Testament had rules about how to be declared healed. A person had to go to the priest, who would examine him or her away from other people. But there was still great fear about leprosy being catching and deadly.
- b) In the first story one man was cleaned, and he did what he needed to by showing himself to the priest. In the second, there were ten lepers and they were together, presumably because they were separated from those they loved. They stood a long way off, because they weren't allowed to be close to others, and they shouted to the Lord asking for healing. Again, He told them to show themselves to the priest, and as they went, they saw that they were healed.
- c) Note that one man was very grateful. Why didn't the others come back to thank Jesus? They were more self-ish, perhaps just thinking of how they could go back to a normal life. Note also that the one who came back was a

Samaritan. Samaritans were looked down on. Yet this man was so grateful that he fell on his face to thank the Lord. Ask children to picture the man doing that. Emphasize that this story advises us to be thankful to the Lord or to anyone who helps us. Note also that the Lord was not pleased that the other nine didn't come back to thank Him.



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The Lord Heals Men Who Have Leprosy

And it came to pass when Jesus was in one of the cities, there was a man full of leprosy. Seeing Jesus, he fell on his face and begged Jesus saying, “Lord, if You will, You can make me clean.”

Then Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him saying, “I am willing. Be clean.” And right away the leprosy left the man. And Jesus said to the man, “Tell no one. But go, show yourself to the priest and do as Moses commanded in the Word.”

But news about Jesus went out, and huge crowds came together to hear Him speak and to be healed of their sicknesses by Him. And then Jesus left and went into the desert to pray.

Luke 5

And another time, as Jesus went to Jerusalem, He passed through a certain village where He was met by ten men with leprosy. They stood far away from Jesus and raised their voices and called loudly saying, “Jesus, Teacher, have mercy upon us.” And when He saw them, He said to them, “Go show yourself to the priests.” And it happened that as they went, they were made clean.

One of the lepers, seeing that he was healed, returned to Jesus, and with a loud voice praised God. He fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.

Then Jesus said, “Were there not ten lepers who were healed? But where are the other nine?” But there were not found any who returned to give praise to God, except this stranger. Jesus said to him, “Stand up and go your way. Because you believed, you are made well.”

Luke 17

