

## For the Family – “Why do we go to church?”

This week’s story helps answer the question, “Why do we go to church?” This is a good week to talk about why your family goes to worship whenever you can.

**Read together** Luke 17:11-19

**Explain** that lepers were people who had a skin disease called leprosy. While it was not life threatening, it was contagious, and lepers were kept away from other people. One of the jobs of the priests was to determine whether someone had leprosy or not.

When the ten lepers called out to Jesus for mercy, he didn’t heal them right away. Instead he told them to show themselves to the priests. They wouldn’t do that unless they were healed of their leprosy. They had to trust Jesus that they would be healed on the way. They believed him, and left to see the priests.

As they went away, they were healed. One of the lepers went back to Jesus and did three things:

He praised God with a loud voice.

He fell on his face at Jesus’ feet.

He thanked Jesus.

When we go to worship, we are just like this man. We recognize that Jesus has healed us. We gather with others who have been healed, to praise God with a loud voice, and give him thanks.

**Read together** Psalm 95:1-7c

Notice the same three things:

Thanksgiving

Joyful noise

Bowing down and kneeling before the Lord

**Talk together** about why it is important to be thankful to God, and why worship is a good place to express that. Talk about why we have music—sometimes *loud music*—in worship.



*The Journey of Discipleship*  
*Luke 9-19*

### **The Scarcest Virtue**

*Luke 17:10-19*

### **Our Story So Far – Luke 9:51-17:9**

- Jesus sets his face to go to Jerusalem and fulfill his mission.
- Jesus sends out messengers. Some are rejected; others tell stories of their power over demons.
- Jesus teaches the importance of loving God and loving others.
- Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray.
- Jesus drives out a demon from a mute man; then challenges those who doubt his power or who want to see more signs.
- Jesus warns against hypocrisy and legalism.
- Jesus warns his disciples against greed or worry.
- Jesus warns his disciples to be always watchful and prepared for his return, even if it seems delayed.
- Jesus warns against judging others who experience tragedy.
- Jesus frees a woman from a disabling spirit, on the Sabbath.
- Jesus warns people to strive to enter the kingdom of God.
- Jesus warns people to be humble, and receive his invitation.
- Jesus warns people to relinquish any entanglements with people or possessions which will affect their discipleship.
- Jesus tells a story to show how he receives sinners and that heaven rejoices whenever a sinner repents.
- Jesus tells a story encouraging his disciples to invest in people, in preparation for the coming age.
- Jesus contrasts the rich man and Lazarus
- Jesus challenges his disciples about temptation and forgiveness.

**Today:**

**Luke 17:10-19 – The Story of the Grateful Leper**

## Read Luke 17:10-19

### The Setting 10

Luke reminds us that Jesus was “on the way to Jerusalem.” This is the third time in this journey that Luke has mentioned this. The first two:

**Luke 9:51** – *When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.*

**Luke 13:22** – *He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journey toward Jerusalem.*

## Read Luke 9:21-22 and 9:44-45

What did Jesus tell his disciples about what awaited him in Jerusalem?

Given all that, is there a reason Luke brings up Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem in connection with this particular story?

### The First Encounter 11-14

What was it like to be a leper in those days?

#### Read Leviticus 13:45-46

What would being healed mean to them?

In other situations, Jesus healed by touch or by word, but he takes a different approach here.

What does Jesus tell them to do?

What kind of faith would that require of them?

### Reflect

Do you trust God enough to act on what he says before you see evidence that it will work?

### The Second Encounter 15-19

Why did the one man turn back?

What three things did he do?

What fact about him was left out of the story until now?

What is the effect of having it revealed so late in the story?

Why do think the other nine did not come back to thank Jesus?

What excuses might they have used to not return?

Three different words are used for healing in our story:

14 – And as they went they were *cleansed*.

15 – when he saw that he was *healed*

19 – your faith has *made you well*.

The first two words have to do with being restored physically. The third word is the word which is translated elsewhere “saved.” What does that imply about the leper who returned to Jesus?

Is it possible to be healed without being saved?

### Reflect

How has Jesus healed you:

Spiritually?

Physically?

Emotionally?

How thankful are you about this?

How do you express your thanks?

What is your attitude toward a typical worship service?

Do you look forward to going or is it more like an obligation?

Do you like to express praise and thanks or sit still and be quiet?

Do you wish it would last longer or does it feel too long for you?

## Read Psalm 95:1-7c

How does this relate to our story?

To your worship?

### Next Steps

- I will trust God, even when life doesn’t make sense.
- I will be grateful to God for how he has transformed me and I will give him praise.
- I need to show gratitude to \_\_\_\_\_ this week for what they have done for me.

### Memory Verse – Luke 7:22

*And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them.*