

Wednesday

Read Luke 17:15-16 *He saw he was healed; praised God.*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. What prompted the one leper to turn back, praise God, kneel at Jesus' feet with thanks? What was stirring in his heart and soul? Have you had a similar experience?
2. What meaning comes from the fact that the grateful leper is a Samaritan and Jesus a Jew, two parties at enmity?

Prayer Focus Review the past 24 hours and give thanks for God's healing presence. Pray for someone with whom you are "at odds," inviting God's healing presence.

Thursday *But the other nine, where are they?*

Read Luke 17:17-18

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. When have you failed to give thanks? Why? How might you now express thanks?
2. What role does entitlement play as an obstacle to gratitude?

Prayer Focus Confess any things, people, experiences which you've taken for granted and for which you have not expressed appreciation. Notice any shift in feeling as you offer thanks.

Friday *Your faith has made you well.*

Read Luke 17:19

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. How does expressing gratitude change you? change a relationship? change your faith in God?
2. How does faith make you well/whole?

Prayer Focus

Ask God to cultivate gratitude as a spiritual practice, that gratitude might make you joyful.

ThanksLiving

The root of joy is gratefulness.... It is not joy that makes us grateful; it is gratitude that makes us joyful. Brother David Steindl-Rast

Message Notes:

Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *Share an experience that filled you with praise and thanks to God.*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Luke 17:11-19.

- Have someone read **Luke 17:11-19**.
- Discuss observations about the text
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?*
(This is a weekly question – it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)

November 18, 2018

ThanksLiving



Monday *Ten lepers approached Jesus, keeping their distance* **Read Luke 17:11-13**

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. Have you ever felt hesitant to approach Jesus/God? Why? How did you overcome your reluctance?
2. For what do you seek Jesus' mercy or compassion?

Prayer Focus

Visualize approaching Jesus in person. Feel the warmth and welcome of his presence. Slowly repeat the prayer, "Jesus, have mercy on me." Listen and watch for Jesus' response to you.

Tuesday *As they went, they were made clean*

Read Luke 17:11-14

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. How were the lepers cleansed of their leprosy before seeing the priests?
2. For what healing or cleansing do you long?

Prayer Focus

Continue the visualization in Jesus' presence. Tell him about your need and desire for healing. Soak in Jesus' loving presence. As you leave Jesus, imagine that you are made whole. How will you respond to Jesus?