

Spotlight on Prayer 4

THE MAN WHO GAVE THANKS

Thanksgiving

YEAR 2 – KINGDOM LIFE

UNIT: TALKING WITH GOD

1 | Teacher's Notes (This lesson can be taught as part of any of the larger units.)

Scripture Luke 17:11-19; Ephesians 5:20

Objectives To explain that

- Today's story is about talking with God and giving thanks.
- Jesus healed ten men with a terrible skin disease, but only one remembered to come back and thank him.
- It is important to remember to thank God for the good things he gives us.
- God has given us so many things to be thankful for, but the greatest gift of all is Jesus, God's only Son who came to save us.

Memory Verse "Always give thanks to God the Father for everything." (Ephesians 5:20a - NIRV)

ACNA Catechism Connections Today's story of The Man Who Gave Thanks is connected to the following Catechism questions:

Q191 Why should you pray for daily bread? God calls me to trust him for the needs of each day, to be concerned for the needs of others, to be content with what I have, and to grow in gratitude for his provision.

Q239 What types of prayer are not included in the Lord's Prayer? Other types of prayer are thanksgiving, by which I give thanks to God for his providential goodness and answers to my prayers; and oblation, by which I offer to him all that I am and all that I do.

Q368 What marks a life of sanctification? God calls me to a life marked by gratitude and joy. In gratitude for God's grace in Jesus, I die daily to the desires of my fallen nature. In the joy of knowing that I will become like Jesus, I live each day in service to him.

**Suggested
Materials,
Props, and
Costumes**

Big story props:

- Large Bible
- Kingdom Life storyboard is NOT used in this lesson.

Lesson Props: (see Props Document for instructions on how to make these)

- Picture of ten lepers and Jesus (found in props document)
- Rags (or toilet paper) for wrapping hands of ten lepers.
- Large poster with the following words for the ten lepers to call out: "Jesus! Have pity on us! Help us! Please heal us!"
- Thanksgiving template poster:
Heavenly Father,
Thank you for ...
Amen.
- Drawing handout for each child (found in props document)
- Colouring pencils (ideally an identical set for each child)
- Cue cards are encouraged if a child reads the part

Costumes: Jesus (blue sash) and ten lepers

Memory Verse: "Always give thanks to God the Father for everything." (Ephesians 5:20a - NIRV)

(Found on the last page of this lesson plan) Print out and place in large Bible.

2 | Lesson Outline:

Welcome	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
Greeting & Collect for Purity	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (<i>see Resource Section</i>)
Prayer of Confession	Say the Prayer of Confession (<i>see Resource Section</i>) Extinguish the candles
Music	The Doxology Thank you Lord for making me Thankful (Group Publishing) Give thanks with a grateful heart <i>Please check internet for lyrics and music.</i>
Review of foundations	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment. <i>For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section</i>
Reading	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
Story Board Review	Ask review questions relating to props from previous lessons on story board. <i>Story board review is found in Section 4</i>
Props/Costumes	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) Big story props: Large Bible, Kingdom Life storyboard
Bible Story	<i>Proceed with story and prayer found in Section 4.</i>
Related activities	<i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i>
Preparation for Communion & leaving class	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <i>See Resource Section.</i>

3 | Storyboard Progression

The Kingdom Life storyboard is not used in this lesson.

This is the thanksgiving template that is used in this lesson:

Heavenly Father,
Thank you for:

Amen

4 | Story and Prayer

SETUP: *We will not use the storyboard for this lesson. Set up two teaching stations: Set up the first station for the play. Set up the second station for prayer, with the thanksgiving template poster up on the flannelgraph or wall. Ask for volunteers for the play.*

BIBLE: *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Today's story is from the Bible, and it is about talking with God in prayer and giving thanks to him.'*

STORY:

TEACHER: Today we are going to hear a Bible story about giving thanks to God. But before we begin, I want you to think of someone who you are thankful for and why you are thankful. *(Children respond)* Yes, being thankful is a very beautiful attitude in our hearts.

(Hold up the picture of the ten lepers and Jesus.) In our Bible story there were ten men who had a skin disease called leprosy. These men were all healed by Jesus, but only one man remembered to come back and give thanks to him. Let's act out that story now.

ACTION: *Ask for volunteers for Jesus and the ten men (or less if you don't have enough children). Identify who will return to give thanks. Wrap rags (or toilet paper) around the hands of the ten men as you say:*

TEACHER: These men had a terrible skin disease called leprosy and were called lepers. Their bodies were covered in sores, and they had bandages wrapped around them.

Nobody wanted to come close to these men as the disease was contagious. The men weren't even able to live with their families! There was no cure for their disease.

What do you think these men wanted more than anything else? Yes, they wanted to be healed.

One day Jesus came to town.

ACTION: *Jesus walks past the lepers, but not looking at them.*

TEACHER: When the lepers heard that Jesus was healing people, they called out to him:

ACTION: *Hold up sign for lepers to call out:*

TEN MEN: "Jesus! Have pity on us! Help us! Please heal us!"

TEACHER: When Jesus heard them, he turned and looked at them and said:

ACTION: *Jesus turns towards the men.*

JESUS: "Go. Show yourselves to the priest."

TEACHER: The ten men decided to obey Jesus. They went on their way to show themselves to the priest.

ACTION: *The ten men walk away from Jesus.*

TEACHER: As they were walking, their skin was starting to heal. They took off their bandages and saw that all the skin disease was gone! Jesus had healed them!

ACTION: *The ten men remove the rags from their hands.*

TEACHER: They were so happy they **ran** to show the priest and then hurried back home to their families. But one man went back to Jesus.

ACTION: *Nine men run to the end of the room and then go and sit down. One man turns back towards Jesus.*

TEACHER: This man remembered to thank Jesus. He praised God in a loud voice and threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him.

ACTION: *The man kneels before Jesus.*

TEACHER: Jesus asked him,

JESUS: "Weren't all ten of you healed? Where are the other nine? Were you the only one who returned to give praise to God?"

TEACHER: The other nine had forgotten to thank Jesus for the amazing gift of healing he had given them.

What about us? We receive so much from God. Do we remember to thank him?

Let's go over to the prayer station and talk about what we can thank God for.

ACTION: *Move over to prayer station and continue lesson.*

TEACHER: We want to be like the man who came back to thank Jesus.

(Hold up memory verse) Our memory verse says: "Always give thanks to God the Father for everything."

(Point to thanksgiving template poster) We have this prayer poster that says: "Heavenly Father, thank you for..." Let's think about some things now that we are thankful for, and we'll write them down and add them to this prayer of thanksgiving. God gives us so many wonderful gifts. What are some things that you are thankful for? *(Write ideas on post-it notes and place on poster)*

TEACHER: Now, let's use our prayer poster and take turns to say our words like this: "Heavenly Father, thank you for: *(read words on one of the notes)* Amen."

ACTION: *Let the children who want to take turns to speak out their prayer of thanks. If you have a large group of children, everyone can speak out their prayer at the same time.*

TEACHER: We can thank God anytime and anywhere. It pleases God to hear our thankfulness and it makes our hearts joyful. Let's thank God now for the greatest gift of all: Jesus!

ACTION: *Have the children echo this prayer of thanks for Jesus:*

Heavenly Father,
Thank you for Jesus, who is the greatest gift of all.
Thank you for sending your only Son to earth
to save us from sin and death, and to give us new life.
Amen

Life Application:

If time allows, give the children an opportunity to spend time quietly alone and draw a picture to God of something they want to thank him for. Give each child the drawing handout and have colouring pencils available. Let the children find a quiet place by themselves in the room. Play soft instrumental worship music in the background. Give the children as much time as seems appropriate (approx. 6 - 10 minutes). Then bring the children together to talk about their experience. Let anyone who wants to, share or show their picture.

Optional: Have a teacher available for any children who would like prayer for anything.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

- **What did you learn about prayer today?** (We should remember to thank God for the good things he gives us.)
- **What did you learn about God today?** (It pleases God when we pray and give thanks to him.)
- What did Jesus do for the ten men who had leprosy? (He healed them.)
- How many men remembered to thank Jesus? (Only one.)
- Has God given us many good things? (Yes.)
- What are some things that we can thank God for? (Family, friends, school, good health, food, warm bed etc.)
- What is the greatest gift God has ever given us? (Jesus, God's only Son who came to save us from sin and death, and to give us new life.)

5 | Response Activities

Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

Optional activities

- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers

"Always give thanks
to God the Father for
everything."

(Ephesians 5:20)