

# Thanksgiving



Always give thanks to God the Father  
for everything.  
Ephesians 5:20

Heavenly Father,  
Thank you for:

Amen

Spotlight on Prayer 4: *The Man Who Gave Thanks* (Condensed Version)

THANKSGIVING (Scripture: Luke 17:11-19)

**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.

**"I Wonder" Questions:** (*Point to poster picture*) \*What do you see in this picture? \*I wonder why one man is kneeling down before Jesus. \*I wonder where the other men are going. Let's find out more in our lesson....

**Lesson Props:** Small post-it notes to write down words of thanks for the prayer poster. Optional large version of story picture on pg. 3

**Lesson Summary:** Today we are going to hear a Bible story about Jesus' kindness to 10 men with leprosy and the one special man who gave thanks back to Jesus. 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. (*Point to ten lepers picture*) In this story there were ten men who were **all** healed by Jesus, but only **one** man came back and gave thanks to him. The ten men in our story had a terrible skin disease called leprosy. 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. These men weren't even allowed to live with their families! There was no cure for their disease. What do you think these men wanted more than anything else? (*Children respond*) Yes, they wanted to be healed! One day Jesus came to town. When the lepers heard that Jesus was healing people, they called out to him, "Jesus! Have mercy on us! Help us! Please heal us!" Jesus said to them, "Go. Show yourselves to the priest." The ten men decided to obey Jesus. They went on their way and as they were walking, their skin was starting to heal. They took off their bandages and saw that their skin disease was gone! Jesus had healed them! 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. (*Point to man on poster*) He praised God in a loud voice and threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. Jesus asked him, "Weren't all ten of you healed? Where are the other nine? Were you the only one who returned to give praise to God?" Sadly, the other nine did not thank Jesus for the amazing gift of healing he had given them. In our story, who do **you** want to be like? (*children respond*) Yes, to be like the man who came back to thank Jesus. (*Point to memory verse*) Our memory verse says: "Always give thanks to God the Father for everything." (*Point to prayer on poster*) We have this prayer on our poster: "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*) Now, let's use our prayer poster and take turns to say our words like this: "Heavenly Father, thank you for: (*child reads his words*) Amen." We can thank God anytime and anywhere. It pleases God to hear our thankfulness **and** it makes our hearts joyful. Now, let's thank God for the greatest gift of all: Jesus! (*Have children echo this prayer*) "Heavenly Father, thank you for Jesus, 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."

**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) \*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 and give us new life.)

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



Back of page 3

Year 2 – Spotlight on Prayer 4 – The Man Who Gave Thanks