

## Thankfulness

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### **Passage: Luke 17:11-19**

**11**On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. **12**And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance **13**and lifted up their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” **14**When he saw them he said to them, “**Go and show yourselves to the priests.**” And as they went they were cleansed. **15**Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; **16**and he fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. **17**Then Jesus answered, “**Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? 18**Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” **19**And he said to him, “**Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.**”

### **Background**

In every place Jesus travelled there were people with great needs. Sick. Blind. Deaf. Mute. Lame. Demon-possessed. Each of the gospels share some of the miraculous encounters Jesus had with these people. In Luke 17, we have another scene of Jesus extending mercy and healing to a group of men who had a contagious and deadly skin condition known as leprosy. This story, however, takes a slight detour when one of the ten men who were healed, returns to give praise and thanks to Jesus. Luke’s recording of this miracle invites each of us to ask, “What difference does thankfulness make in my life?” What if each of us could learn to marvel more at the miracle-maker than the miracle itself. What if we could learn to be thankful for the gift-giver and not only the gift. When the mercy of Jesus collides with the needs of humanity, then worship and thankfulness is the most reasonable response.

### **Sermon Notes**

November 20, 2022

## Instructions

Since we believe we are BETTER TOGETHER, this discussion guide serves as a conversation guide with your small group. The “Belong” section offers an ‘ice-breaker’ or reflection question to start your time together. In the “Believe” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Our hope is to have meaningful conversations around God’s Word, not simply answer all the questions. Finally, the “Become” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life and to pray for one another.

## Belong

- What is your favorite specific food (entrée, side, dessert) to eat for Thanksgiving meal?

## Believe

- What do you think happens when we grow increasingly ungrateful in our lives? When has it been the most difficult in your life to be thankful? Considering all the ways God has shown you mercy, for what specifically are you the MOST thankful? What do you think happens to us physically and spiritually when we consistently practice BEING thankful? Is there a difference between *being* thankful and *giving* thanks? Why? How so? When was the last time you made an intentional effort to show gratitude to someone else? What was the response? What are intentional ways we can demonstrate thankfulness to God? What are some ways we can grow to *be* more thankful and *give* thanks more regularly?
- **Read Luke 17:11-19.** What stands out the most to you about this story? How did the lepers address Jesus? What can we learn from this (vs 13)? Why do you think Jesus told the lepers to “go and show” themselves to the priests? What is significant about going to the priests? What can this teach us about the faith of the ten lepers? What does this teach us about the mercy of Jesus? What do you think prompted the one to return to Jesus? What did the one who returned do? What is significant about Jesus’ response (vs. 18)? What were Jesus’ final words to the one who returned? How did the one who returned demonstrate faith? If Jesus has already healed him of leprosy, what do you think He means when He said, “your faith has made you well?” Since no other gospel records this story, why do you think Luke chose to share it? What can we learn about faith, gratitude, mercy and thankfulness?
- **Read Psalm 118.** How does the psalmist describe all the reasons why they are thankful to the Lord? What stands out the most to you? What part of the psalm connects the most to your life right now? Why or how so? In what ways can we join the psalmist in praising God for who He is and what He has done?

## Become

- Name one person you are thankful for and why. Commit to finding a specific and intentional way to demonstrate your thankfulness to them this week.
- **PRAYER POINTS:** How can we pray specifically for one another this week? Pray for our ministry partners around the world, especially missionaries in hostile parts of the world. Pray for your local school, school district administrators, and teachers/staff. Pray that God will give you opportunity to serve someone specifically this week. Pray for an attitude of thankfulness regardless of the situation you may be facing.