

HEROES

OF THE

FAITH

Ordinary Men and Women . . .
Super Ordinary Power

37

A THANKFUL LEPER

HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012

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 *Mission*[®]
Arlington † Metroplex
Taking church to the people



A THANKFUL LEPER

Memory Verse:

Give thanks no matter what happens. God wants you to thank Him because you believe in Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5:18 NIV)

Lesson Goals:

#1 - Understand how ordinary the thankful leper was

#2 - Discover what obedience led the thankful leper to do

#3 - Desire to let God do extraordinary things in the life of the ordinary student

Audience:

Young, un-churched learners

Adaptable for all ages, including adults (See **For more training** on Activities page)

Scripture to Study:

Luke 17:11-19



37 A THANKFUL LEPER

Luke 17:11-19

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

Our hero: A Thankful Leper

His Heroic Feat: Returns to say “*thank-you*”

Returning to say “*thank-you*” may not sound very heroic, but let’s look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

One by one they went to live outside of their villages. They left their homes and their families. They left their jobs. What would make someone leave all that they had? A disease; leprosy. It was an awful disease that didn’t kill you but never seemed to end, either.*

Little by little, they noticed the signs: problems with the skin and then with the fingers and toes until they lost all feeling, tumors on their skin that deformed them, even the collapse of their nose. They knew that once it started they had to leave, otherwise they would spread the disease to others. Even if they didn’t care about the others, society made them leave. This disease made people afraid.

Moving outside of the city walls usually meant living off of what you could find around the city dump. It meant yelling “unclean” everywhere you went. It meant absolutely no human contact except from others who were suffering the same, almost endless, disease. What hope was there of returning home? What hope was there of a normal life again? The only hope of returning home to a normal life was to be healed. But who could heal them of this awful disease?

People were talking about one man. He could heal sickness. He had even raised the dead! Jesus had done those things, and one day, while He was on His way to Jerusalem, He traveled along the border between Galilee, in the North, and the Central region of Samaria. “As He was going into a village, ten men with leprosy came toward Him. They stood at a distance and shouted, ‘Jesus, Master, have pity on us!’” (Luke 17:12-13 CEV)

When Jesus saw these ten men, He told them to go show themselves to the priest. A leper would need to go and show himself to the priest only if he had been healed. So what was Jesus telling these men? He was communicating that as they stepped out in faith to show themselves to the priest, they would be healed. All ten men left, “and as they went, they were cured and made clean.” (Luke 17:14 AMP)

You might expect that to be the end of the story, but it is not. You see, when one of those lepers realized he had been healed, he turned around and went back to Jesus. He shouted praises to God. "Then he bowed down at Jesus' feet and thanked Him." (Luke 17:16 NCV) Jesus hadn't told him to come back and say "thank you." This one leper, though, couldn't help himself. He was so grateful he had to say "thank you!"

Maybe you are wondering the same thing Jesus asked, "Weren't ten men healed? Where are the other nine?" (Luke 17:17 NCV) None of them returned. Sure, they must have been happy to be healed and whole. Maybe they ran straight home after showing themselves to the priest, but they didn't stop to say "thank you." Maybe they didn't think twice about the man who had healed them.

Our memory verse says, "Give thanks no matter what happens. God wants you to thank Him because you believe in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:18 NIV) There was no doubt that the thankful leper believed it was Jesus who had healed him.

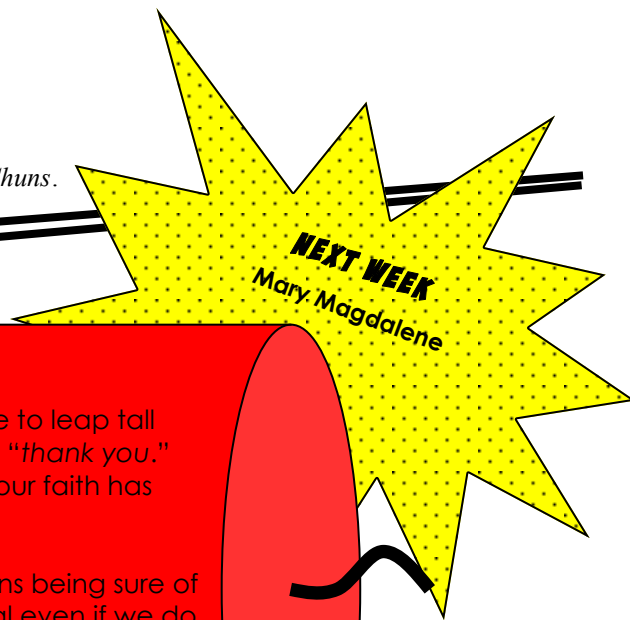
You know not all of us are sick with leprosy, but all of us are sick with something else. We are sick with sin, every one of us! Maybe you are so sick with sin that it has separated you from family and friends or maybe you are just beginning to notice the symptoms. Either way, the only hope of being cured is the same hope these ten lepers found - Jesus Christ! Do you know that long before you were aware of your problem, God provided the way for you to be okay with Him? He sent His one and only Son. God loves you so much that He was willing to sacrifice His only Son. Will you take the first step of faith and come to Him? He's waiting for you to do just that!

Gillen, Alan L. Ed.D. *Biblical Leprosy: Shedding Light on the Disease that Shuns*. June 10, 2007. <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v2/n3/the-disease-that-shuns>

YOU CAN BE A HERO, TOO!

When you live a life of faith in Jesus Christ, you don't have to leap tall buildings to be a hero. The thankful leper returned to say "thank you." When he did, Jesus told him, "You may get up and go. Your faith has made you well." (Luke 17:19 CEV)

Do you have faith? Hebrews 11:1 tells us that "Faith means being sure of the things we hope for and knowing that something is real even if we do not see it." (NCV) You see, the leper couldn't see himself well; he had to believe and obey. Will you have faith in the God you can't see with your eyes? His work can be seen all around you. Have you thanked Him for it?



PRE-SCHOOL!

LESSON

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His Heroic Feat: Returns to say thank-you

Returning to say thank-you may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

One day, while Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem, He traveled along the border between Galilee, in the North, and the Central region of Samaria. "As He was going into a village, ten men with leprosy came toward Him. They stood at a distance and shouted, 'Jesus, Master, have pity on us!'" (Luke 17:12-13 CEV)

Leprosy is an awful disease. It doesn't kill you, but it makes you very sick. Leprosy hurts your skin. It hurts your fingers and toes. It causes large bumps to pop out. When Jesus was living, people with leprosy had to leave home. They had to leave the city. They couldn't be around people who were well because they were contagious. People were afraid to get close to lepers (people with leprosy). That is why these ten men shouted from a distance.

When Jesus saw these ten men, He told them to go to the priest and show him that they were cured. As they stood there, though, they were all still very sick. To be made well, they had to obey Jesus and leave. All ten men left, "and as they went, they were cured and made clean." (Luke 17:14 AMP)

You might expect that to be the end of the story, but it is not. You see, when one of those lepers realized he had been healed, he turned around and went back to Jesus. He shouted praises to God. "Then he bowed down at Jesus' feet and thanked Him." (Luke 17:16 NCV) Jesus hadn't told him to come back and say "thank you." This one leper, though, couldn't help himself. He was so grateful he had to say thank you!

What do you have to be thankful for? Let's tell God "thank you" right now!

ACTIVITIES!

- Memory Verse Activity - Encourage your students to make decorative posters of the memory verse. Provide craft supplies and encourage creativity.
- Continue adding heroes' names and heroic feats to your "Heroes Banner."
- Sing the "Doxology," "Praise Him, Praise Him," "Give Thanks," or other praise songs related to the lesson.
- Re-enact the lesson.
- Provide thank you notes or paper and envelopes. Encourage your students to think of people they are thankful for. Help them write thank you notes and deliver them.
- **For more training:** Review the memory verse (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Are people always healed? No, not in this fallen world. What should we do then? Will you be thankful, even when things don't turn out as you expected?

Give thanks
no matter what
happens.
God wants you to
thank Him
because you believe
in Christ Jesus.
1 Thessalonians 5:18

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HERO IN TRAINING

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Scripture:

Luke 17:11-19

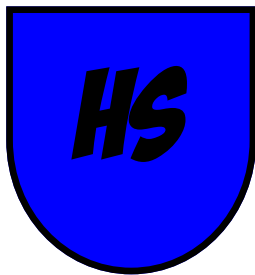
Memory verse:

Give thanks no matter what happens. God wants you to thank him because you believe in Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5:18 NIV)

Our Hero: _____

What did our hero do that was so heroic? _____

What can you do to be a **Hero of the Faith**? _____



What power do Heroes of the Faith possess?

Do you have the power? _____

Review the memory verse (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Are people always healed? No, not in this fallen world. What should we do then? Will you be thankful, even when things don't turn out as you expected? _____

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
 Review your memory verse and fill in the words that are missing below. Then, fill in the puzzle in the order the words appear, starting at the arrow with number 1.

	2			3
			5	
			4	
1				



Give _____ no matter what happens.
 _____ wants you to _____ Him
 because you _____ in Christ _____.
 (1 Thessalonians 5:18 NIV)

WORD

SEARCH!

S E L I J A T A O M E L B
O R D E N O H R U G O E C
N A R E S R E P E L N E T
S D G G N I Y F L O E E D
H E W T S H W L T N T T E
F T E W A D E E H N H N S
T P I L H T N S F E A A H
H I T A D N T R R S N V S
U C Y A F U N U O L K R W
N S A U O N T O B S F E A
H A V E P I T Y O N U S L
E E T D N E R W R V L K K
J E S U S L A O F O A C S
G H D E L A E H L L A I N
B T J W I L L S E S C S G

- Jesus
- ten lepers
- Have pity on us
- Go
- show yourself
- they went
- all healed
- one thankful
- faith

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Answer Page

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
 Review your memory verse and fill in the words that are missing below. Then, fill in the puzzle in the order the words appear, starting at the arrow with number 1.

s	² g	o	d	³ t
k	v	e	⁵ j	h
n	e	s	e	a
a	i	u	s	n
h	l	e	⁴ b	k
¹ t				

↑

Give thanks no matter what happens.
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WORD

SEARCH!

Answer Page



- Jesus

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