

*Get Ready!***Gee, Thanks!**

By: Julie Gallagher

*Give  
Thanks***Text**

Luke 17:11-19

**Key Quest Verse**

“You are my God, and I will give you thanks” (Psalm 118:28).

**Bible Background**

In the Bible, leprosy was considered a punishment from God for sin. The victim was said to be in a state of *tsara'ath*, or defilement. This Hebrew word was later translated as *lepros*, from which came the word *leprosy*. Having *leprosy* was considered to be unclean. After the condition had progressed to a point, he is utterly unclean and he must live apart from the clean (see Leviticus 13:1-59).

In Luke 17:11-19, the leper who returned to thank Jesus was a Samaritan. In New Testament times, the Samaritans were considered hostile to the Jews. This is shown through the irony of the Parable of the Good Samaritan, who aided a sick Jewish traveler although members of his own Jewish faith would not (see Luke 10:30-37) and by the story of the conversation between Jesus and the woman of Samaria (see John 4:5-42).

*Get Ready!**Give  
Thanks***Lesson Quest****What I want my students to:**

- Know:** God wants us to be thankful.
- Feel:** Thankful for God’s goodness to us.
- Do:** Tell God and others “thank you.”

**Leader’s Devotion**

“Give thanks with a grateful heart . . .” How often do we come to God and give Him thanks for the wonderful things He’s given us? In our lesson today, Jesus gives ten men a wonderful gift – the gift of a new life – and only one remembered to say “thank you.” How often do we come to God with our requests only to forget to thank Him for coming through. One of the assignments for your students is to begin keeping a Thanksgiving Journal. You need to set the example. Start now by beginning your own journal. Take a few minutes to write down several things that you can thank God for each day. Encourage your students to do the same, offering reminders and encouragement. It takes a conscious effort, but God is blessed by our thanks.

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**Get Set!****Option A****THANK YOU****Materials:** None

**Procedure:** Ask the children to complete some task such as bringing something to you. Thank only one of the children without acknowledging the others. Make it obvious. **What did you notice about what I said to each of you? How did you feel when you did what I asked, but I didn't say anything? How did you feel when I thanked you for your work? Doesn't it feel much better to be thanked for the things you do? We're going to be learning about some people who did not say thank you to Jesus. Listen and see if anyone remembered to say thanks.**

**GO TO THE BIBLE STORY****Option B****TREATS****Materials:** Treats (candy), stickers, pillows

**Procedure:** Divide the class into two groups. Share privileges (such as treats, stickers, pillow to sit on) with the children in one group. Have the other group sit on the floor and face the wall. Keep the two groups separated on opposite sides of the room. Let this continue for a short time then offer several children the opportunity to join the privileged group. See if any tell you thank you. Share the treats with all the children as you talk about their experience.

**How did you feel in your group? Did anyone want to change groups? How did you feel when you had the chance to change groups? Did anyone say thank you? In our story today we're going to learn about some people who had something great happen to them and what they did next. Listen and see what they did.**

**GO TO THE BIBLE STORY**

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**Get Set!**

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**Bible Story**

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**Teacher Tip:** Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles

**Materials:** White dot stickers, two signs – one that says Jesus and the other the priests – hanging on opposite sides of the room

**Procedure:** Have children place white dots on their hands, arms, and faces. As you tell the story give them directions on where they should go and what they should do to act out the story.

**As you put your white dots on we're going to pretend that we have leprosy. Leprosy was a disease that the doctors didn't know how to fix and it was very contagious. Sometimes people with leprosy would lose their fingers. Since there was no medicine to take and no way to get better, people with leprosy had to live away from the rest of the people. They couldn't even see their families or friends because the people were afraid that they'd get the disease. How would you feel if you had to live away from everyone else? I bet they were lonely and sad. Are you ready to be the lepers in the story?**

**One day Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem. As He was going into a village, He passed by ten lepers. They stayed away from Him, but yelled out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" He looked at them and told them to go show themselves to the priest. They did and while they were on their way they noticed that their leprosy was gone! Jesus had healed them! How do you think they felt? What do you think they did? One of them came back, praising God and fell down at Jesus' feet. He said "Thank you! Thank you! You healed me! Thank you!" Jesus said, "Didn't I heal ten people? Where are the other 9? Couldn't the others come back to give glory to God?" Only one person remembered to come back to tell Jesus thank you.**

**Go!****Thanksgiving Centerpiece****ARTS/CRAFTS**

**Materials:** Empty margarine or yogurt container, colorful dried beans, rice, and popcorn (navy beans, split peas, pumpkin seeds, etc.), colored pasta (see below for instructions), Elmer's glue, taper candle

**Quest Connection**

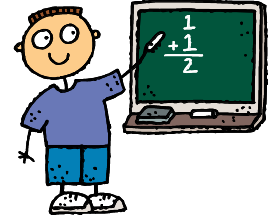
**How do you think the ten lepers felt after they were healed? We know that one of them was thankful. Do you think he celebrated? I bet he got together with his friends and family that he hadn't seen in a long time. Sometimes we get together with our family to celebrate Thanksgiving and the things for which we're thankful. We're going to make a special centerpiece to put on your table to help you remember to thank God for the good things He does for you.**

**Procedure:** Before class, color the pasta. Place 1-2 tablespoons of rubbing alcohol in a Ziploc bag. Add several drops of food coloring. Add either elbow macaroni or small shells. Shake until it's all colored adding more food coloring if necessary. Spread on newspaper or paper towels to dry. Make several different colors using fall colors (red, yellow, orange)

Have the children mix the beans and popcorn in the margarine containers. Next, add the glue and let it set for a couple of minutes. Push the candle into the center of the bean mixture. Let the children take them home to dry overnight. They should pop right out of the container the next morning.

**Close**

**When you light your candle, thank God for something that He's done for you.**

**Go!****Wheel of Thanks****GAME**

**Materials:** Short phrases naming things to be thankful for or details from the story, chalkboard and chalk, or newsprint and markers

**Quest Connection**

**The man in our story had a lot to be thankful for, didn't he? Can you name some things he was thanking God for?** (Health, being with family and friends, going to "church," giving hugs, etc.) **We're going to play a game to try to guess some things we might be thankful for.**

**Procedure:** Divide the class into two teams. Play the game like Wheel of Fortune or Hangman. Let someone from the first team guess a letter. They then have a chance to guess the puzzle. The other team continues in the same manner until the puzzle is solved.

**Close**

**That was a fun way to think of things God has given us.**

**Prayer: Thank You, God, for all the good things You give us. Amen.**

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**Go!**

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**Give Thanks Acrostic****CREATIVE WRITING**

**Materials:** Resource page, pencils

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**Quest Connection**

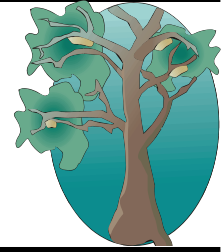
**Can you think of anything for which you are thankful? I'm sure we could make quite a list if we wrote down everything.**

**Procedure:** Give each child a copy of the Resource Page and a pencil. Help them write something for each letter.

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**Close**

Use their acrostics as closing prayers.

**Go!****Thanksgiving Tree****BULLETIN BOARD**

**Materials:** Tree trunk made out of brown construction paper fastened to the bulletin board, fall colored construction paper, scissors, pencils, markers

**Quest Connection**

**Has anyone noticed that the leaves are starting to change colors? I'm so thankful that God gave us different seasons to enjoy. Let's think of some other things that we are thankful for to add to our Thanksgiving Tree**

**Procedure:** Let each child trace their hands 5 or more times on the colored construction paper. Help them write something that they are thankful for on each of the hand prints. They can illustrate their hand prints if desired. Cut the hands out and fasten the hands on the branches and around the base of the tree. Take pictures of your bulletin board and invite the rest of the church to come see it. You might consider decorating a bulletin board or wall in a visible place in the church.

**Close**

**I think our tree looks great! I bet God is happy to see us thanking Him for the blessings He gives us.**



**Go!****Madame Blueberry****VIDEO**

**Materials:** Veggie Tales “Madame Blueberry” video, TV, VCR

**Quest Connection**

**When Jesus healed the lepers He gave them lots of things. Can you name a few? (Health, return to family and friends, able to go back to normal life . . .) Do you think they were happy? We know that only one came back to say thanks. Do you think they were thankful? Have you ever stopped to think about all the good things that you have? How often do you remember to say thanks? Are you happy with the things you have? We’re going to watch part of a movie about someone who thought she needed more stuff to be happy.**

**Procedure:** Prepare the video ahead of time. If time allows, let the children watch the whole video. It lasts around 35 minutes. If not, start the video around 19:30 on the counter. Watch until the end. You may want to watch it ahead of time and fill the class in on the beginning.

**Close**

**What did Madame Blueberry think she needed to be happy? What did she learn from the poor little girl and the boy at the store? Let’s try to remember that we can find a happy heart by being thankful for the things we have. Let’s take a minute and thank God for all the good things He’s given us.**

**Go!****Bouncing Thanks****GAME**

**Materials:** Playground ball

**Quest Connection**

Have you ever stopped to count all the things for which you're thankful? There's a song we sometimes sing called "Count Your Blessings." We're going to play a game today to see who can think of the most blessings.

**Procedure:** Have the children stand in a circle. Bounce the ball to one student. Upon receiving the ball they must quickly say something they are thankful for and bounce the ball to someone else. Each student must say something that hasn't been said before. If they hesitate too long or can't think of anything new they are out of the game. Play until there is only one student left.

**Close**

It's amazing how much God has blessed us. Once we got started we kept thinking of more and more things.

**Prayer:** Thank You, God, for all the wonderful things You have given us. We are so thankful for Your blessings.

WRITE SOMETHING YOU ARE  
THANKFUL FOR BEGINNING WITH  
EACH LETTER.

G _____	T _____
I _____	H _____
V _____	A _____
E _____	N _____
	K _____
	S _____

**DRAW HOW YOU FEEL WHEN YOU DO  
SOMETHING NICE FOR SOMEONE AND  
THEY DON'T SAY THANK YOU.**

**DRAW HOW YOU THINK GOD FEELS  
WHEN WE THANK HIM FOR HIS GIFTS  
TO US.**

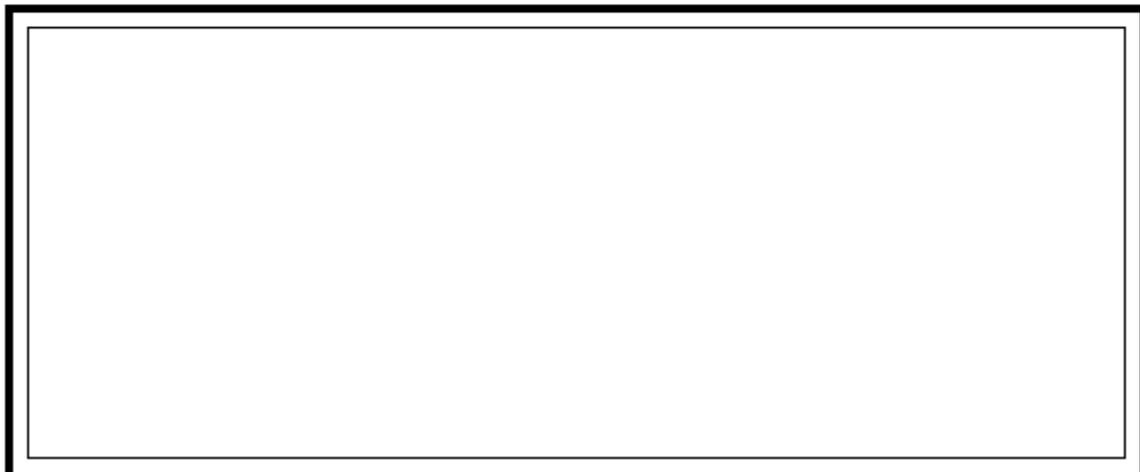
**You are my God, and I will give you thanks (Psalm 118:28).**

**SOLVE THE PUZZLE BELOW BY USING  
THE CHART. THE FIRST LETTER IS  
DONE FOR YOU.**

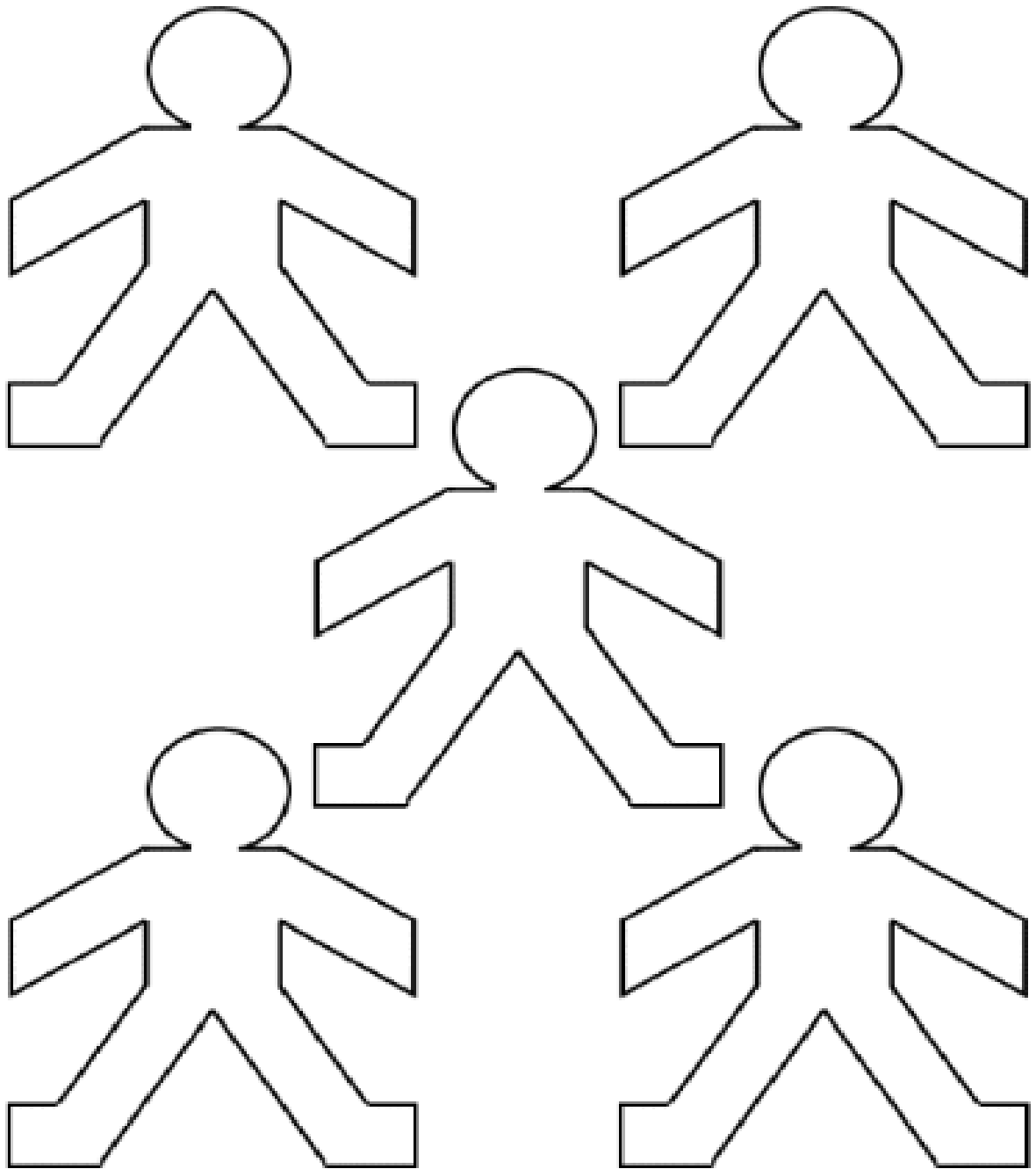
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
M	S	A	E	R	J	T	C	V	I	N	L	W	P	O	D	U	K	G	B	H	X	Q	Z	F	Y

T \_\_\_\_\_  
 G D K    L D N D E B    M D E D    U D C L D P    C K P  
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 O K L Z    O K D    H C A D    T C H R    T G O    B C Z  
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**DRAW A PICTURE OF WHAT THE PUZZLE SAYS IN THE BOX.**



**Teacher: Make 2 copies of this page on card stock for each student. Help them write one word of the memory verse on each person. Cut them out and attach magnets to the back. They can then put them in the correct order on their refrigerators.**



SATURDAY

I THANK GOD FOR . . .

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MY  
JOURNAL  
OF  
THANKS

SUNDAY

You will be keeping a journal of thanks. Each day write down or draw pictures of at least 3 things you are thankful for. Be sure to tell God or anyone else (like Mom and Dad) thanks.

I THANK GOD FOR . . .

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FRIDAY

I THANK GOD FOR . . .

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TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

I THANK GOD FOR . . .

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I THANK GOD FOR . . .

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MONDAY

THURSDAY

I THANK GOD FOR . . .

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I THANK GOD FOR . . .

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