

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

THANK YOU

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Introducing the Gospel

Ten lepers (Luke 17: 11-19)

As Jesus now draws still closer to Jerusalem in Luke's Gospel, he is met by ten lepers. All ten lepers were healed, but just one returned to thank Jesus. This man was a Samaritan, a foreigner. Jesus' reply to the Samaritan 'Your faith has made you well' can mean more than simply healed from leprosy. The Greek could also be translated 'Your faith has saved you.' Bringing healing and salvation to the Samaritan prefigures opening the reign of God to the Gentiles. That is the theme of Luke's second book, The Acts of the Apostles.

The image to stimulate reflection on Luke's teaching about the healed leper who returned is *thank you*.

Core extract from the Gospel (Luke 17: 12-16; for reflection throughout the week)

As Jesus entered a village,
ten lepers approached him.
Keeping their distance, they called out, saying,
'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!'
When he saw them, he said to them,
'Go and show yourselves to the priests.'
And as they went, they were made clean.
Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed,
turned back, praising God with a loud voice.
He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him.
And he was a Samaritan.

Gospel prayer (for use throughout the week)

Thank you, Lord Jesus,
for all that we are.
Thank you, Lord Jesus,
for all your saving love.
Thank you, Lord Jesus,
for all that we are called to become.
Thank you, Lord Jesus.
Amen.

READING NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Luke 17: 11-19

Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' When he saw them, he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, 'Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' Then he said to him, 'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.'

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME

Dwelling with the text (Luke 17: 11-19)

Begin to explore Luke's teaching about the healed Samaritan who returned to thank Jesus by employing the SIFT approach of Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking. You may find that one of these approaches comes easier to you than the others. But it is worth trying all four.

- What details in the passage catch your attention (Sensing)?
- What big ideas in the passage spark in your mind (Intuition)?
- What most touches your heart in the passage (Feeling)?
- What most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage (Thinking)?

Thinking and talking

Identify topics within the passage that can get you thinking and talking. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- Why does Luke locate this narrative in the region between Samaria and Galilee?
- Why did Jesus tell them to show themselves to the priests?
- What do you make of Jesus saying 'Your faith has made you well'?
- What does this narrative say for us today?

Using your Bible

Explore Samaritans in Luke's Gospel and Acts.

- Luke 9: 51-56
- Luke 10: 29-37
- Acts 1: 8
- Acts 8: 4-25
- Acts 9: 31

Explore salvation in Luke's Gospel and Acts.

- Luke 1: 47
- Luke 1: 69
- Acts 16: 30-31

Explore leprosy in the Old Testament.

- Leviticus 13: 45-46
- Leviticus 14: 1-7

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Exploring online

Widen your exploration of Luke's teaching about the healed Samaritan by looking up some of the following themes and others of your own choosing.

- The region between Samaria and Galilee
- Samaritans in Luke's Gospel and Acts
- The one who returned to say thank you

Drawing on experience

The image to stimulate reflection on Luke's teaching about the healed Samaritan who returned to Jesus is *thank you*. Draw on your own experiences of saying and hearing thank you. For example:

- When have people said thank you to you and really meant it?
- When have you said thank you to someone and really meant it?
- Why are people sometimes reluctant to say thank you?

What have you learned about saying thank you?

Creating and making

This section offers pointers to some creative activities that may be inspired by Luke's teaching about the healed Samaritan who returned to Jesus, or by the image of thank you.

- Make a display of thank you cards and thank you picture.
- Make a poster telling the narrative of the ten lepers.
- Collect stories of how people say thank you.
- Create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of the Luke's teaching about the healed Samaritan who returned to Jesus or the image of thank you.



EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales.



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