

Mental



✔ Prepare in Advance

Facilitator: In advance of the session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✔ Explore

As you begin, discuss the following question. Why do you think that the Bible so often commands us to *be thankful?*"

Have someone read Luke 17:11-19 out loud, then show the *Bible Background Video*.

✔ A Life Separated

Use these questions to encourage discussion.

- These men remained at a distance from Jesus – why is this significant? How did they view themselves? How did they regard Jesus?
- What specific thing did Jesus ask them to do, and how was it an act of faith?
- The separation of lepers in that time was both spiritual and practical – not only were these lepers considered spiritually unclean, but people believed that getting too close might make them contagious. Can you think of anyone who's treated like this today – either by society, or by the religious community?
- Jesus did not shy away from these people; he healed them. On other occasions he actually touched people with leprosy. What do Jesus' actions toward these people say about them – both spiritually and practically?
- How could we, like Jesus, affirm and validate people whom others consider "unclean?"

✔ Coming Back to Give Thanks

- In a sense, the other nine were just following Jesus' command. Do you feel like Jesus was critical of them for not returning? Are you sometimes critical of the other nine? Why?
- What was unique about the one who came back... and why did Jesus consider this so significant?
- Jesus says that this man's action was also an act of faith. How was his act of faith deeper, in a way, than what the other nine did?

- The nine were cleansed (verse 14), but the one man who returned to give thanks was made "well" or "whole." How is this different from what the nine received? Why would he receive a different kind of healing?
- Why are recognition, praise and thanksgiving such an important part of our spiritual and emotional well-being?

✔ Closing

In closing, share one thing you feel God has spoken to you through today's scripture. Then close with prayer.

By Jon Parks

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