

How often do you talk to someone you love and who loves you? Once or twice every day? Jesus talked with God every day because He loved God and knew God loved him.

The man called out, "Unclean! Unclean!" It had been a long time since he had noticed the first pale spot. When more spots appeared, he had gone to the priest. And he had heard those awful words: "You have leprosy." He had to leave his family and home. Whenever he came near people, he had to cry "Unclean!"

One day the leper heard that Jesus healed people. He wondered about that. Could Jesus heal him? Maybe Jesus could cure him.

The leper did not know how to find Jesus. But he would try. He could not go near the cities. So he looked for Jesus in the small towns. He traveled on mountain trails where no one else went. Finally the leper found Jesus teaching people by a lake. He stood away from the crowd and watched. He saw Jesus heal people. He listened to Jesus' kind words. His hope became faith! He believed Jesus could help him. So that man began to move closer to the crowd. He forgot that he was not supposed to be near people. He thought only about being healed.

When people saw him, some ran away. Others shouted at him. Others tried to stop him from getting close to Jesus. They

did everything but touch him. But the leper had not come this far to give up. He fell to his knees saying, "Lord, I know You can heal me and make me clean if You choose to."

"I will," said Jesus, as He touched the man. "Be healed!"

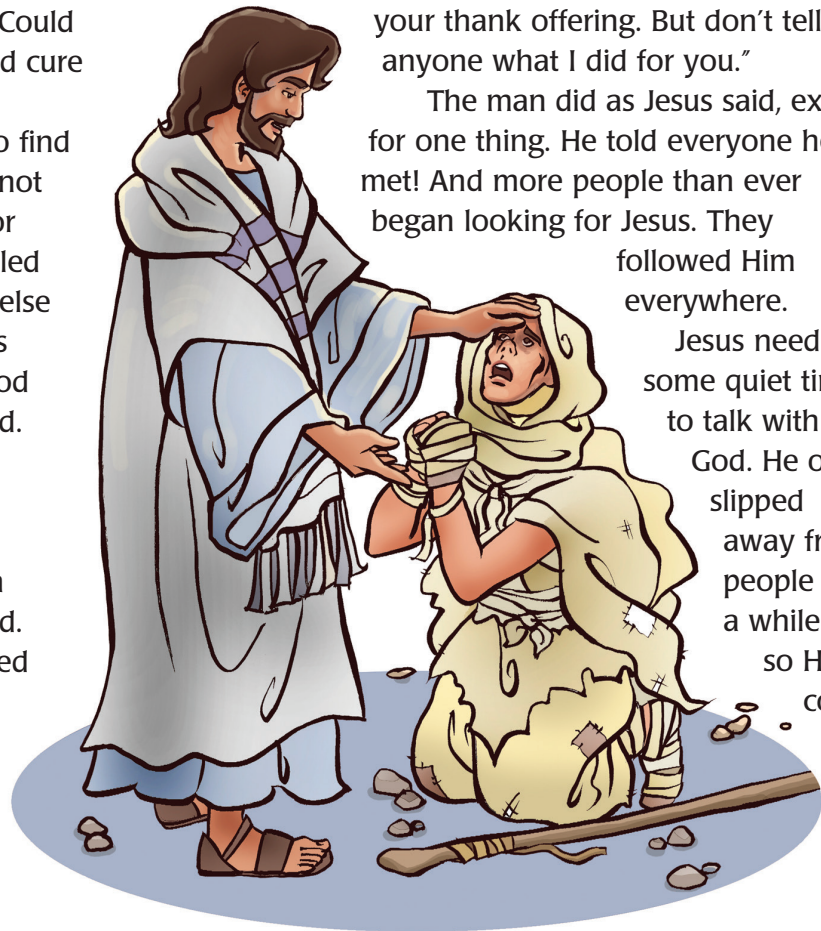
He touched me! thought the man. *No one has touched me in a long, long time!* He looked at his arm. The white patches had disappeared. All over his body the sores had disappeared. His skin had returned to a normal color, just like that of the people watching him.

"Go now and see the priests," said Jesus.

"Let them say you are clean. And give your thank offering. But don't tell anyone what I did for you."

The man did as Jesus said, except for one thing. He told everyone he met! And more people than ever began looking for Jesus. They followed Him everywhere.

Jesus needed some quiet time to talk with God. He often slipped away from people for a while so He could



The Message

I worship God in my daily, quiet prayer time.

Memory Verse

“Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed”

(Luke 5:16, NIV).

have time to pray; time to talk with His Father. It was hard to talk when people were crowding about Him. So Jesus found quiet places where He would not be disturbed.

Often Jesus would get up when it was still dark to talk to His Father. Or He would pray all night. His favorite quiet place was the Garden of Gethsemane. So many people wanted so much from Him. He knew He needed power and wisdom from God. So He prayed every day. Every day He slipped away from people

to have some quiet time with God.

We can get power and wisdom from God too. We need daily prayer time too.

When we pray and worship God every day, He is with us.



S A B B A T H

READ If possible, go with your family to a quiet place outdoors. Read Mark 1:35 together. Imagine that you are in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus often prayed. Discuss and pray about special things your family names.

SING Teach your memory verse to your family and sing a prayer song together.

M O N D A Y

DO Fold a large piece of paper in half. Trace around your hand, keeping the little finger side on the fold. (Keep your fingers together.) Cut it out (do not cut on the fold). Unfold it, and write your memory verse inside. Put it in your quiet prayer place.

READ During family worship, read Matthew 6:9-13 together. Ask your family to help you write the prayer in your own words.

PRAY Pray the Lord's Prayer together.

People thought leprosy was caused by a person's sin. So to be healed of leprosy meant to be forgiven of sin as well.



S U N D A Y

READ Read Mark 1:35 by yourself. Find a place where you can be alone to pray. Tell God about your day.

THINK Why do you think Jesus liked to pray in a garden?

PRAY Make a poster that says: "God Answers Prayer." Show it during worship. Ask each family member to tell about an answer to their prayers. Together, thank God for answering prayer.

T U E S D A Y

READ During worship today, read and discuss Matthew 6:5-8. When and where do people in your family have secret prayer time? Share answers to prayer.

SING Sing "Whisper a Prayer" (Sing for Joy, no. 96); then thank God for answering prayer.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ Read and discuss Luke 11:9-13 during worship. Name and count good things that God has done for your family. Thank Him for them.

DO Trace around the hands of each person. Cut out the hands and glue all of them on the same paper to make a montage. Above the hands, write "Praying hands worship God."

SING Sing a praise song as a prayer.

THURSDAY

READ During worship, read and discuss Luke 5:12-16. How do you know the leper had faith in Jesus? What was his life like before Jesus healed him? after?

PRAY Ask each person in your family to imagine that because of illness they cannot live with each other. Ask each person to go to a quiet place alone and think about it. When you come back together, each one is to call out "Unclean! Unclean!" Together, ask Jesus to make you clean in every way. Thank Him for hearing your prayers.

FRIDAY

DO Review this week's lesson and act it out with your family. Ask each person to say the memory verse and tell about a quiet time with God this week.

SING Have each person toss a wadded paper ball to another and name something for which they want to thank God. Sing a praise song before prayer.

Time to Pray

PUZZLE

Directions: The first letter of each object should be copied onto the lines provided. The answer will tell you how to keep in touch with God.