

Where Are the Nine?

Luke 17:11-19; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 262-266, 348

Have you had chicken pox? If so, you probably had to stay home from school for a long while. If you had gone to school some other children might have caught the disease from you. That's because chicken pox is contagious—people can easily catch it. In today's lesson we will read about 10 men who had a contagious disease.

One day Jesus and the disciples were walking to Jerusalem. They traveled a road on the border between Galilee and Samaria. Just as they were entering a village, 10 men called, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

Jesus looked around. He saw lepers' shacks built outside the village. He saw men dressed in ragged clothing. He saw bandages wound around their feet and hands. Instantly Jesus knew that these men were lepers.

Jesus felt very sad when He saw the lepers. He knew how much they wanted to be well again.

Long before Jesus lived on earth, Moses had given some rules about leprosy: when the first sores of leprosy appeared on a leper's skin, he or she had to show them to the priest. The priest would look very closely at the sores

and then send the person away. After a set time, the leper returned to the priest. If the sores had not healed, the priest would say the person was unclean because he or she had leprosy.

Lepers had to live outside the village. They were not allowed to return to their families unless the sores healed. And though lepers hoped and hoped, leprosy did not heal.



The Message

We worship God when we thank Him.

Memory Verse

“Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases”

(Psalm 103:2, 3).



Nine of these lepers were Jews and one was a Samaritan. They had heard of Jesus. They held their arms out to Jesus and begged Him to help them.

“Go, show yourselves to the priests,” Jesus called.

For just a moment the lepers may have been disappointed. But then they understood. They knew why Jesus was sending them to the priest.

The lepers knew they would have to show themselves to a priest. If the priest said they were healed, everyone else would welcome

them back into the village. They could go home and live with their families again.

“What are we waiting for?” they probably asked as they hurried to find the priest. As they ran, the feeling returned to their feet and hands. The sores went away. They were truly healed!

As much as the Samaritan wanted to reach the priest with the others, he stopped.

He turned around and ran back to Jesus.

Praising and thanking God, the man fell at Jesus’ feet.

“Thank You,” he may have whispered. Then, louder, “Thank You, Thank You. Thank You!”

Jesus’ eyes sparkled. So few people He helped were truly thankful.

He looked down the road at the nine Jews hurrying on their way.

“Were not 10 lepers cleansed?” Jesus sadly asked. “Where are the other nine? Is the Samaritan the only one who will thank and praise God?”

Then Jesus turned to the Samaritan and said, “Get up and go. Because of your great faith, you have been made well.” Joy filled the man’s heart. With a thankful heart, he worshipped God.



S A B B A T H

DO With a family member, walk some distance away from your house or apartment but to where you can still see it. Imagine what it would be like to live away from your family. Read the lesson story, "Where Are the Nine?" If possible share the story with a sick person.

TELL Try to tell the story in your own words. Read the memory verse from the Bible to someone in your family.

M O N D A Y

READ During worship, read Luke 17:15, 16. Why do you think Luke mentioned that the tenth leper was a Samaritan? Read Acts 10:34, 35.

DO Do you have a friend from another country? Who is it? Find his/her country on a map. Pray for them today.

DRAW Draw around your hand or foot and cut out the drawing. Write your memory verse on the cutout, then use it to teach the verse to your family.

W E D N E S D A Y

TELL During family worship, tell about a time you were very sick. In what ways was your illness like or unlike leprosy? Who helped you get well? When you pray, thank God for medical care and the gift of health.

DO Write your name without using your thumb. Then thank Jesus for the way you are made.

DO Use your hand or foot cutout and review your memory verse.

S U N D A Y

READ During family worship today, read the lesson story in Luke 17:11-19.

MAKE Make or find a small gift for a sick person. Make some wrapping paper with pretty pictures. Write your memory verse on the wrapping paper. Plan to deliver or mail the gift.

SING Play, sing, hum, or listen to "God Made Our Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 57).

PRAY Thank God for your health.

T U E S D A Y

DO Ask your family to help you make a flute. Find a cardboard tube (toilet paper tube, etc.). Fasten a piece of waxed paper to one end with a rubber band. Hum one of your favorite praise songs into your flute. Ask your family to read the memory verse while you "play" the flute.

READ Read Romans 1:21, 22. What can happen to one who forgets to thank God for His blessings? What blessings did you enjoy today? Thank God for them.

T H U R S D A Y

READ With your family, read Luke 17:17. Why do you think nine lepers did not thank Jesus? Write below three things for which you are thankful:

PRAY Thank Jesus right now. Imagine that you are at Jesus' feet just like the grateful leper.



F R I D A Y

SING

For family worship, have a praise marathon. Sing praise songs without stopping. Take turns thinking of a song. Try to start the next song as soon as the last one ends. Keep going until you run out of new songs. Read Psalms 138:1 and 145:1, 2 as a prayer.

MAKE

Start a family "blessings book." Every Friday evening, write in blessings that your family has enjoyed during the past week. Hold hands and thank Jesus for these blessings.

DO

Lead your family in saying your memory verse.

Tax collectors, robbers, and murderers were considered equally bad and could all be kept outside of the synagogue.



PUZZLE

Directions: Find 10 letters with a dot. Arrange the letters into two words that describe what one leper did. Write the words on the lines below.

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

ANSWER: _____

*Hint: The first word starts with "G."
Use the letter "A" in each word.*