**EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME**

**SAYING THANK YOU**

**EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY’S THEME**

***Introducing the Gospel***

*One returned to give thanks (Luke 17: 11-19)*

Luke’s Gospel contains an intriguing narrative that is in neither Mark nor Matthew. As Jesus was making his way to Jerusalem (where he knew that he would be put to death), he was met by ten lepers. All ten lepers were healed, but just one returned to give thanks to Jesus. The one who returned was a Samaritan, a foreigner. Jesus’ reply to the Samaritan, ‘Your faith has made you well’ can mean more than simply healed from leprosy. All ten had been healed from leprosy, but returning to give thanks was of added benefit. The Greek could also be translated, ‘Your faith has saved you’. Bringing healing and salvation to the Samaritan prefigured in Luke’s Gospel opening the Kingdom of God to the Gentiles.

Our image to stimulate reflection on our gratitude for God’s generosity is *saying thank you*.

***Core extract from the Gospel (Luke 17: 15-18; for reflection throughout the week)***

When he saw that he was healed,

one of the ten lepers 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?’

***Gospel prayer (for use throughout the week)***

Generous God,

we receive your gifts with gratitude,

and we return with songs of thanks and praise.

Now stir our hearts to show our gratitude

by dedicating our lives and our resources

to your service;

today and everyday.

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 exploring Luke’s teaching on gratitude to God 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 did the lepers approach Jesus, keeping their distance?
* What is the significance of Jesus telling the lepers to show themselves to the priests?
* Why is Luke emphasising that the one who returned is a Samaritan?
* Why did only one of the ten return?
* What does this narrative say for us today?

***Using your Bible***

Explore other encounters of Jesus with lepers.

* Mark 1: 40-45

Explore other narratives in Luke concerning Samaritans.

* Luke 10: 30-37

Explore teaching in the Old Testament about healing from leprosy.

* Leviticus 14: 1-4

Explore themes about giving thanks to God in the Psalms.

* Psalm 9: 1-2
* Psalm 69: 31-37
* Psalm 95: 1-7
* Psalm 100: 1-4
* Psalm 147: 1-7

***Exploring online***

Widen your exploration of gratitude to God by looking up some of the following themes and others of your own choosing.

* Generosity in the Bible
* Gratitude to God
* Saying thank you quotes images

***Drawing on experience***

The image to stimulate reflection on our gratitude to God is *saying thank you.* Draw on your experience of saying thank you.

* When have you been moved by someone saying thank you to you?
* When have you made a special effort to say thank you to someone?
* How do you say thank you to God?

What have you learned about saying thank you?

***Creating and making***

This section offers pointers to some creative activities that may be inspired by our gratitude to God.

* Make a collage of Bible passages about gratitude to God.
* Make a display of thank you quotes and cards.
* Make a collage of reasons to be thankful to God.
* Create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of gratitude to God.



**EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME**

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.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk

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 and the St Christopher’s College Trust.



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