

Expressing Thanks Student copy

Background Scriptures: Leviticus 13 – 14; Luke 5: 12-16; 17; 11-19

Print Passages: Leviticus 13: 45-46; Luke 17: 11 – 19

Key verses: *One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice.*

Luke 17: 15

Central Truth: **Believers must acknowledge acts of kindness with gratitude.**

Objectives: As a result of this lesson, the members of GPBBC Sunday School class will

- 1) Examine the reaction of the lepers to being healed
- 2) Assess our own personal gratitude quotient, and
- 3) Develop a plan for showing gratitude to God and others daily.

This is the last lesson in the Unit 1; Jesus Teaches about Faith.

Lesson 1 “**No Worries**” We are taught to not worry but trust God in all things.

Lesson 2 “**Calming the Storm**” Storms of this life will come; continue to seek Christ in faith, the one who can calm the storms.

Lesson 3 “**A Healing Touch**” We were told by faith to go to Jesus, reach for Jesus and trust in Jesus by Faith

Lesson 4 “**An Amazing Feat**” We are reminded that through faith we can overcome fear and doubt that interfere with what God has for us.

Lesson 5 “Expressing Thanks” No matter how many problems you have, you still have many reasons to be grateful to God. This week consider your personal level of faith and boldness. Are you willing to give God glory for what He has done in your life even when others are silent or absent?

One of the takeaways will deal with the believers’ response to God’s gracious blessings. Israel was commanded to give thanks for all God’s blessings and especially for His mighty acts of salvation – Ps 100; 103- 107. We learn that gratitude is among the foremost responses to God’s Grace. Furthermore, Jesus teaches us how to love the stranger and what it means to do ministry even among the least of these.

1. Section I A Cry of Unclean Grief Leviticus 13: 45 – 46

Plight of the Leper- The life was one of misery.

Rhetorical Question: What did they have to be thankful for?

Application: When we are going through problems, trials, knocks, upsets, injustice, racism, unfairness, etc., etc., etc. Is being thankful on our minds? Do we stop to reflect on how good God has been to us? Do you stop to reflect on God's faithfulness? Troubles will continue to come. Where is our faith in God? Where is our faith in the promises of God?

Question 1: What do we have to be thankful for when we are going through difficult times? Consider 1 Thess. 5:

Question 2: What are problems associated with labeling people and isolating them as outcasts?

Question 3: Name some groups who may have received such treatment. Who are the "lepers" today?

Question 4: How can the church minister to those who are considered outcasts?

(Consider Matthew 28: 19-20; Romans 16: 17; 2 Thess. 3: 14; 2 John 10-11)

2. Section II: A CRY FOR UNEXPLAINABLE GRACE LUKE 17: 11-14

Rhetorical Question: How excited would you have been? How grateful would you have been? How would you have shown your gratitude?

GQ: WOULD YOU HAVE BEEN THE ONE OR ONE OF THE NINE?

Question 5: Do we often take God's blessings for granted? If so, why?

SECTION III: A CRY OF UNCONTROLLABLE GRATITUDE LUKE 17: 15-19

QUESTION 6: WHY DID THE OTHER NINE NOT RETURN?

WHAT IS OUR OWN GQ- GRATITUDE QUOTIENT?

- HOW OFTEN DO WE TAKE GOD’S BLESSINGS FOR GRANTED AND FAIL TO THANK THE LORD?
- Consider Ps 107: 8, 15, 21, 31 “Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!”
- ARE WE CONTENT TO ENJOY THE GIFT BUT FORGET THE GIVER?
- ARE WE QUICK TO PRAY BUT SLOW TO PRAISE?
- THE REALITY OF GOD’S BLESSING IS BEYOND DISPUTE. WHAT IS OPEN TO QUESTION IS OUR REACTION WHEN WE RECEIVE THEM. WHAT IMPROVEMENTS DO YOU NEED TO MAKE?
- LET US DETERMINE (DECIDE, ACT ON, WORK ON, PROMPT OURSELVES, CAUSE, URGE, CONDITION, MOTIVATE, PROVOKE, PERSUADE, ELECT, CHOOSE) TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD

Our Central Truth: Believers must acknowledge acts of kindness with gratitude

On a sheet of paper write down twenty-five things for which you are grateful. After a few moments, invite them to share a few of their responses. Then think about the last time they thanked God for each blessing listed. Explore reasons why believers are sometimes prone to overlook God’s blessings and take them for granted.

Closing Statements: Throughout this series of lessons from the Gospels, Jesus has reminded us that God is our healer, deliverer, and provider. The key to living the abundant life is faith—that confident unswerving belief that God will always work things out for our benefit