

**Liturgy of the Word with Children**  
**28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C**  
**12 October, 2025**  
**Luke 17:11-19**

### **Catechist Background**

In today's Gospel reading we revisit last week's theme of God's goodness as an unmerited gift with a real-life example. In the ancient world, 'leprosy' was a catch-all term to refer to many skin diseases, some of which, like eczema and psoriasis, are not contagious. However, as some skin conditions are contagious, anyone or anything believed to have 'leprosy' were shunned. Even clothing and houses could have 'leprosy' (see Leviticus 13)! Having 'leprosy' was something that made a person 'unclean' (as would touching a leper or a wild carcass, eating pork or being a Samaritan); only a Temple priest had authority to pronounce them 'clean' but only if their condition disappeared and they performed specified purification rites. Until then, there were strict rules about how close 'lepers' could get to 'clean' people. As they could not be gainfully employed, 'lepers' tended to live on the edges of towns and villages, and often had no choice but to depend on begging from a distance for their survival. As with most afflictions in biblical times, 'leprosy' was seen as a divine punishment for some wrongdoing by the person, their parents or ancestors.

The fact that only the Samaritan (out of the ten who were healed) returned immediately to Jesus is notable; under usual circumstances a Samaritan would not be permitted to approach a 'good' Jew. Perhaps he knew he might never again be able to get near enough to Jesus to thank him personally. It also reminds us that people we think are 'unholy' or 'unusual' can respond to God in ways that outstrip ours: the Gospel message is not to be kept only for us for God loves everyone equally.

### **Setting the Scene**

For the activity described below, you will need a small amount of modelling clay or play-dough for each person. Alternatively, you could use paper and colouring materials for everyone to draw with.

### **We Say Sorry**

*Leader:* You bring healing to those who are troubled, Lord have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

*Leader:* You fill us with joy and life, Christ have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

*Leader:* You restore our relationship with you, Lord have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

### **Gloria**

### **We Pray (1)**

God, help us to love you and to show love to other people. Amen.

### **Gospel Intro**

It may be helpful to remind the children about the concept of thankfulness if it arose last week. You will also need to explain a bit about 'leprosy' and how in Jesus' time people with 'leprosy' were forced to keep away from the rest of the community.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Gospel:** Luke 17:11-19

## Reflecting on the Reading with Children

- Why did the ten lepers come to Jesus? What did they want from him?
- What did Jesus do for them?
- Who returned after they were healed? Why was that surprising?
- In Jesus' time, many Jews thought that God only loved the Jews, and only they would be saved.
- However, Jesus healed the Samaritan too - what does that teach us today?

## Response

- Give each child a small amount of clay/play-dough (or a piece of paper and a pencil).
- Invite them to model (or draw) something for which they are grateful/thankful to God.
- Invite each child to stand up in the group and say what they have made and why, if possible.
- You may be able to incorporate these items into the offertory procession when back in Mass.

## We Believe

Relate the Creed to what you have shared with the children by asking these questions and inviting the children to reply, 'I do.'

- Do you believe in God the Father, who gives us all good things?
- Do you believe in Jesus, God the Son, who came to heal and save everybody?
- Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit who strengthens and works through us?

## We Pray (2)

Again, relate the Prayer of the Faithful to the Gospel reading by saying: 'We know you are still at work, healing our world, and so now we pray...'

*Leader:* We pray for bishops, priests and deacons, that they may recognise God's commands. Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* We pray for scientists, doctors, nurses and inventors, that they use their skills to make the world a better place. Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* We pray for anyone who is ill, especially those with leprosy or another skin disease. Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* We pray for anyone who is missing their friends, family or someone else. Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Lord, you healed the ten lepers. Help us to show your healing to everyone we meet. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

