

“The Power of Thanksgiving”

Luke 17:11-19

INTRODUCTION

This week our country celebrates Thanksgiving. Too often we miss the powerful opportunity to give thanks, to God and to others in our lives. In this study we will look at the ten lepers who were cleansed by Jesus. Surprisingly, only one returned to thank Him. Here are some of the lessons we can learn from the thankful Samaritan leper.

Ice Breaker (Optional):

What is one tradition your family observes on Thanksgiving Day?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

Four Lessons from the Samaritan Leper

His Reason to Give Thanks

Q1. Read Luke 17:11-19; Psalm 36:5-9; Psalm 8:3-4;

If we read this passage carefully, we see that all the lepers were cleansed but it was only when one Samaritan leper realized that he had been healed and made whole that he returned to thank Jesus. Like the other nine, we too sometimes fail to recognize and give thanks for the gifts God has given us. What reasons do you find in Psalms 36 and 8 to give thanks? What are some of the things in your life for which you can be thankful?

His Decision to Give Thanks

Q2. Read Psalm 100:4; Psalm 103:1; Psalm 145:1-2; Hebrews 13:15

The Samaritan turned around and returned to give Jesus thanks and to praise Him. It is up to us to take action and express our thanks. As you read the passages above aloud in your group, notice where, when and how David offered praise and thanksgiving God. The author of Hebrews called praise a sacrifice. In what ways do you feel your praise is like a sacrifice to God?

His Focus of Thanksgiving

Q3. Read Luke 17:15-16; Psalm 16:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Jesus was the focus of the Samaritan's thanksgiving (Luke 17: 16) and his praise (Luke 17:15). We praise God for who He is, and we thank Him for what He has done. Psalm 16:11 tells us that there is joy and

pleasure in God's presence. Sometimes our focus is distracted by life's circumstances. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 tells us it is God's will to give thanks in all circumstances. (note, not for all circumstances) What difference can an attitude of thanks make in your otherwise discouraging circumstances?

His Expression of Thanksgiving

Q4. Read Psalm 95:6; Psalm 134:2; Psalm 47:1; Psalm 149:3; Psalm 150:1-6; Psalm 95:1

There are many expressions of praise and thanksgiving. As you read each of these passages, stop to share with your group, who has experienced that expression and who has not. Perhaps discuss why you haven't tried some of them and if there are any you think you would like to try. Consider trying one as a group.

WRAP-UP

The Samaritan leper recognized the great gift he had been given and when he saw that he was healed and whole, he returned to Jesus to fall at His feet and give Him thanks and praise. Those of us who have been saved have also been cleansed and healed of our sins. We owe an even greater debt of gratitude to God. It is up to us to make a decision to offer up a sacrifice of praise, focusing on God and expressing our gratitude and praise with thankful hearts.

Memory Verse

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!
Psalm 100:4 ESV

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members' needs:

Challenge: Cultivate a thankful spirit by setting you watch (or smartphone) to chime hourly and give thanks for one thing each time. Try it!

Q1.

Read Luke 17:11-19 in your Bible

Psalms 36:5-9 ESV - 5 Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. 6 Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast you save, O LORD. 7 How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings. 8 They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. 9 For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

Psalms 8:3-4 ESV - 3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, 4 what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

Q2.

Psalms 100:4 ESV - 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

Psalms 103:1 ESV - 1 Of David. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

Psalms 145:1-2 ESV - 1 A Song of Praise. Of David. I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. 2 Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

Hebrews 13:15 ESV - 15 Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

Q3

Luke 17:15-16 ESV - 15 Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; 16 and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan.

Psalms 16:11 ESV - 11 You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 NIV - 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Q4

Psalms 95:6 NIV - 6 Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;

Psalms 134:2 NIV - 2 Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the LORD.

Psalms 47:1 NIV - 1 For the director of music. Of the Sons of Korah. A psalm. Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.

Psalms 149:3 NIV - 3 Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with timbrel and harp.

Psalms 150:1-6 NIV - 1 Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. 2 Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. 3 Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, 4 praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe, 5 praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. 6 Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD.

Psalms 95:1 NIV - 1 Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Prayers Con't: _____

