**Live in Community**

 Small Group Study

**Volume Overview**

**Honor God**

With all my heart I will praise you, O Lord my God. I will give glory to your name forever. ([Psalm 86:12](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps86.12))

*Most people think of worship as exclusively songs and music. We think worship is something we do in a service on Sunday mornings. But the Bible calls us to give our entire life as worship. We honor God with our songs and praise, but all of life is an opportunity to show God honor. We worship best when we make it a lifestyle, expressing our gratitude, prioritizing our time with Him, purifying our heart and actions, and generously sharing with others. We worship as we honor God with our whole life.*

**Session Overview**

**Express Gratitude**

**Biblical Encounter:** The Grateful Leper’s Healing ([Luke 17:11–19](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk17.11-19))

**Outcome:** Express gratitude to God for His goodness.

*In this session, we encounter ten men who suffered from leprosy. As Jesus walked near them, He was met with their cries for help and healing. Immediately, Jesus told them to go and show themselves to the priest. As they left in faith, they were healed. Following their healing, only one of the ten returned to thank Jesus.*

*The healing of the ten men was an obvious miracle. There was no doubt that Jesus did this for them. Yet, only one man returned to say thanks. How often is our life impacted by Jesus, yet we fail to recognize it and say, “Thank You”? Expressing gratitude for all God does for us is key to our growth and maturity as a follower. A lifestyle of gratitude sets us apart as people who truly honor God for all He has done in our life.*

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| ***You Will Need*** *• Index cards or half-sheets of paper, one per student* *• Pencils or pens, one per student* *• Smartphone with timer****Getting Ready*** *•* ***First time leading Live for Youth? Look here for the*** [***Facilitator Guide***](https://0b769b0ed3569ef9d18b-f88d8272f61086866d50d048b43ef630.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/sites/biblengagementproject/Listen_Facilitator_Guide.pdf)***.*** |

*To access session content and videos from a computer, visit:* [***BibleEngagementProject.com/downloads***](https://bibleengagementproject.com/downloads)

**Engage**

**Welcome**

*Take this time to welcome everyone, introduce new students, learn names, and thank everyone for coming. Your friendliness here can create a comfort level that encourages student participation later.*

**Opening Prayer**

*Prayer thoughts: Ask students to call out things they want to thank God for. Then make this a time of prayer centered on thanksgiving.*

**Introduction**

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| **QUESTION**What’s something you’ve received you were very grateful for? |

How grateful a person is can tell us a lot about them. Perhaps you gave someone a gift, and they never thanked you. Or maybe you’ve seen someone express a great deal of gratitude for something that didn’t seem like a big deal. Why is it that some people seem to live life grateful for the small things they have, while others seem ungrateful even for really big things?

**Group Activity**

**Guessing Gratitude**

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| ***You Will Need*** *• Index cards or half-sheets of paper, one per student* *• Pencils or pens, one per student* *• Smartphone with timer**No prep is needed for this activity.* |

Let’s look more at being grateful. For our game today, you’ll have one minute to write down one thing you’re thankful for that’s unique. For example, it could be that you’re thankful you got a special pair of shoes, a good grade on a test, a spot on the sports team, a role in the school play, or something similar. Make it specific to you and something that most people wouldn’t know about you.

When everyone has written their name and what they’re thankful for, I’ll collect the cards and begin reading them one by one. As a group, everyone will try to guess who wrote each one.

• *Hand out an index card and pencil to each student. Give students time to respond.*

• *Use the timer to set the response time.*

• *Collect the cards, mix them up, and begin reading.*

• *Give time for students to guess who wrote each card.*

We can see that there’s a lot to be thankful for. Today, we will discuss the idea of being grateful, what it looks like, how we can grow in it, and what our grateful attitude means to Jesus. But first, let’s check out this video.

**Watch**

**Consider What the Bible Says**

*Ensure each student has access to a Bible, preferably the same version.*

Today we’ll look at an encounter that took place when Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem—the place where He would later give His life on the Cross. Jesus didn’t allow His future suffering to blind Him to others’ needs. He is a Savior who cares deeply for us. In the Bible story, we’ll focus on how Jesus viewed gratitude.

**Ten Men Encountered Jesus**

Read [Luke 17:11–13](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk17.11-13).

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| **QUESTION**Why didn’t the ten men with leprosy run up to Jesus like many others did who hoped for healing? |

In Bible times, people infected with what they called leprosy weren’t allowed to be near others for fear of giving them the disease. Lepers had to shout, “Unclean,” anytime they came close to another person. This gave the other person a chance to get away.

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| **QUESTION**How do you think it felt to be a leper in the days of Jesus? |

Living as a leper was very isolating. These men had been separated from their families, friends, and communities. People may have called them names, thrown things at them to keep them away, or simply ignored them to stay healthy. In spite of the way others may have reacted, this group was willing to accept the risk of calling out to Jesus.

**Did You Know?**

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| Although serious skin diseases, typically called leprosy in English Bibles, were a big problem in the ancient world, they were even worse for Jews. Skin diseases made a person ritually impure. That denied people with the disease the ability to worship with others who didn’t have the disease. |
| **QUESTION**Do you think it would be harder to have some type of incurable disease or be isolated from your family for the rest of your life? Why do you think this? |

Because people with leprosy weren’t allowed near healthy people, the emotional pain and loneliness may have been more severe than physical pain. We all need others in our life, especially when we are facing difficult things.

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| **QUESTION**Have you ever desperately cried out to Jesus for a need in your life? Tell us about it. |

• *You may want to have a personal story ready to share about a time you felt this way. It may open the door for others to share.*

Life can be hard at times. We all experience physical suffering and times of loneliness. In this story, Jesus showed us that He was willing to enter people’s worlds of hurt and pain. He did this even when others thought He should avoid them. He cares when we are sick, lonely, or bullied. Maybe we’ve felt far away from our friends or family. Jesus wants to be present during these times in our life and bring us healing, too.

**One Man Returned to Thank Jesus**

Read [Luke 17:14–16](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk17.14-16).

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| **QUESTION**When were the lepers healed? |

Sometimes the Bible doesn’t give us exact details, so we don’t know for sure. It might not have happened immediately, and they might not have been near Jesus anymore. So, it’s possible that the one who returned did so after the group was some distance from Jesus.

Sometimes we get discouraged if our prayers aren’t answered right away. And when time has passed between our request for healing and the healing itself, we may forget to thank Jesus for it.

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| **QUESTION**What was the thankful leper’s first reaction to seeing he was healed? |

He returned to Jesus, shouted praises, fell at Jesus’ feet, and then thanked Him. He really demonstrated being grateful! His praises to God also clue us in that he knew exactly the Source of the good thing that had happened to him.

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| **QUESTION**What are some things God has done in your life that you’re thankful for? |

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| **QUESTION**Other than saying, “Thank You,” what are some ways we can show God gratitude for what He has done or is doing in our life? |

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think the last five words in verse [16](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk17.16) are mentioned? Why are they important to the story? |

Most Samaritans and Jews didn’t like each other. And many went as far as acting racist toward each other. The writer, Luke, likely points out the grateful man’s race for two reasons. First, it shows that Jesus was not racist and was willing to help those who called out to Him regardless of their background. Second, it connects to Jesus’ next statement of disappointment. Let’s read what He said.

**Jesus Asked Three Questions**

Read [Luke 17:17–19](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk17.17-19).

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| **QUESTION**What are the three questions Jesus asked in these verses? |

How sad that the other nine men didn’t come back to give thanks! Most likely, we’ve all been guilty of this at times. The good news? Although only one man returned to give thanks, all ten were healed. In other words, their healing was not dependent on giving thanks. But how wonderful it is when we can express the joy of giving thanks to our God.

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| **QUESTION**Does it surprise you that Jesus’ first response was to mention that the others hadn’t come back to thank Him? Why or why not? |

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| **QUESTION**What would you have thought if you had been one of the disciples and you watched this conversation take place? |

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| **QUESTION**Do you think our expressing thanks is just as important to God today? Why or why not? |

**Reflect**

**Express gratitude to God for His goodness.**

Just like the one man who returned to Jesus, there are times when we should express gratitude. Salvation, being empowered with the Holy Spirit, receiving healing, or some other need being met are just a few of the many reasons we have to be grateful to God. Our expressions of thanks are truly worship to God, and they let Him know we are extremely grateful for all He has done.

**Listen to God**

Let’s take time to consider how our life demonstrates a real trust in the Bible. These questions are meant to serve as a conversation between you and God. Sharing your responses with the group is completely voluntary.

• *Pause for a few moments of silent reflection after reading the questions. Then ask students if they want to share. Sharing your personal response may also be helpful to the students.*

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| **QUESTION**How should this encounter with Jesus change our outlook and response when it comes to giving God thanks for what He has done in our life? |

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| **QUESTION**How can we express our gratitude to God in ways that others can see? |

**Activate**

Today, I want us to activate our faith by being grateful. First, I want each of us to take a moment to thank God for who He is and what He has done in our life. It may be for salvation, answering a prayer, or just being present in our life.

Second, I want to challenge each one of you to show your gratefulness to someone who has helped you in some way. The person may be a parent or other family member, a teacher, coach, or pastor. Take time to specifically thank them for something they did to help you.

**Conclusion**

Like many Bible stories, we can see ourself in this one and learn to live differently from what we read. Expressing gratitude is clearly important to Jesus. Living with a thankful heart is one way to express worship to Jesus. A grateful heart also shows us who we are and the growth taking place in our life. Just like the one man who returned to give thanks, we should take time to thank Jesus often for big things and small things. This includes being grateful for everything—from the breath we take to the salvation Jesus provided for us through His death.

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| **Salvation Opportunity***Include this if you think there may be some in the group who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus.*The first step in living a life of gratitude is understanding what Jesus did for us on the Cross. He gave His life so we could experience eternal life with Him.**Is anyone here that we can pray for who doesn’t have a relationship with Jesus or wants to renew their relationship with Him?***Take a moment to acknowledge those who respond, and thank them for their desire to make things right between themselves and God. Pray with them as you close in prayer or after the group time is over. Following group time, talk more about where they are in their walk with God and how you might be able to help.* |

**Prayer**

Thank You, Heavenly Father. You have given us life and walk with us each day. Help us to grow in our walk with You and learn to be grateful. Just as we read about the one leper who returned shouting praise to You, help us to shout our praise, too. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

**Dismissal**

I’m thankful for each of you here today as we discussed the encounter Jesus had with the people He healed. Also, thank you for engaging in the daily devotions provided on the app. I’ll see each of you next time!