

## **Jesus the Healer: The Ten Lepers**

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## **Science Workshop:**

**Teaching method:** Use a 10 penny experiment to help students better understand the story of the Ten Lepers and being made clean or 'whole.' Share stories of how doctors heal people today and how we are wonderfully made. Help students understand that part of being made well, or whole, is for us to participate in worship with a thankful heart full of praise.

### **Leader Preparation:**

Read the scripture for this lesson. Luke 17:11-19  
Read and reflect on the overview material provided for this lesson.

### **Gather the following materials:**

Bibles

Science Experiment directions - attached and found at:

[http://www.exploratorium.edu/science\\_explorer/copper\\_caper.html](http://www.exploratorium.edu/science_explorer/copper_caper.html)

Science supplies: salt, white vinegar

10 dirty pennies

**Note:** For the experiment Instead of 20 pennies, use 10. Don't go on to use the nails and screws. Do the experiment at the beginning of class so you can see the results at the end of the class.

### **Opening:**

Greet your students warmly, welcoming them to your workshop. Introduce yourself and any other adults. Shepherds will be taking attendance while you are starting your lesson.

Ask: How many of you were at the Creation workshop last month where you did an experiment with pennies? (Allow for answers.)

Have students briefly tell you about how the experiment worked and what they learned from it. (Accept answers.)

Explain that today we're going to use a similar experiment to help us learn about another Bible story!

Have the experiment all set up and ready to go.

Ask: What is going to happen when I put these 10 pennies into the salt and vinegar solution? (They are going to be made clean.)

Do steps 1-3 of the experiment using 10 pennies.

On step 4. Take nine out and put on the paper towel. Rinse the 10th one and put it on the separate paper towel.

Go on with the rest of the class and come back to Step 9 at the end of class.

**Distribute Bibles.** (Encourage bringing Bibles - 3rd grade and up.)

Ask: Where in the Bible would we read about Jesus healing people? (New Testament)

What are the first four books of the New Testament?

What do we call those first four books? (the Gospels)

Say: The word Gospel means "good news". The good news about Jesus is that he has God's power to heal and forgive sins. Jesus forgives our sins.

Say: Let's find Luke 17:11-19 in the Bible and read about Ten Lepers Jesus healed. Help everyone find the story. Read the story together.

Explain that the word "clean" in this story means to be cured. At the end where Jesus says, "your faith has made you well." "Well" means to be made whole.

Kids will need help to understand the disease of Leprosy - the distance people needed to stay from others - that they needed to announce they were unclean. They had to live separately from society etc.

Here are some background notes from Pastor Phil:

In this story, Jesus doesn't say any words of healing - he just says, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." The law at this time said that the priests had to verify that a person was no longer a leper. The lepers came to Jesus with "open hands" saying "Have mercy on us. Here we are - we need you."

Jesus said to go, and these lepers just went. They trusted Jesus. They acted on Jesus' words. Their healing took place in their trust and obedience.

Jesus didn't just stay or visit with people who were clean and well. He spent time with the sick and those in need. This goes along with the belief that "The God in Christ is for all people." This statement is a direct tie-in with worship. We recognize that we need God. Full healing involves worship with a thankful praising heart. The 10th leper had that kind of a heart. He showed thankfulness and praise. God built into us a need for a day of rest. Worship is that day of rest - using thanks and praise. When we sing or say the kyrie during worship: "Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy." We're standing with the lepers along the road. We're saying to God - We need your healing touch - listen to us.

***Check on the pennies to see if any changes are noticed....***

Ask: When you get sick, what do you do? (Accept answers... sleep, medicine, doctor visit, pray)

Touch on the following concepts: Kids may have questions about why someone is or is not healed. We don't always know the answer - these concepts from Pastor Phil may help answer them. Kids really need to know that Jesus will never leave them and he will give us the strength we need to handle what comes our way.

- 1) All authority is given to Jesus - even the authority to heal.
- 2) When we pray to Jesus for healing:
  - We pray with open hands
    - Take this illness and use it to your glory.
    - Jesus will give us what we need:
      - Healing or
      - The ability to live with our illness.
- 3) We pray that Jesus will help us to trust him.
  - We can trust ourselves to him.
  - Jesus will be faithful to us.
- 4) Jesus doesn't heal everyone in the way they would like, but promises never to leave us. His word is more powerful than illness and even death itself. So we trust his wisdom.

Say: One of the ways Jesus helps to heal us is through doctors.

Please share how we are wonderfully made and how God uses you and other doctors to heal people through medicine as well as miracles.

After sharing, check back on the pennies. Nine should be tarnished and the one should be clean. Ask the students what they observe about the pennies? Ask how this ties back in with the story of the 10 Lepers? (The shiny penny represents the one thankful leper.) We too need to praise and thank God, so that we can be made whole, or well, like the thankful leper.

### **Closing:**

Dear Lord,

Thank you for everyone here today and for this time of learning more about you. Thank you for your healing powers and for doctors who heal us too. Please forgive us for our sins and make us whole. Help us to find time each week to worship you. Amen.

### **Extra Activities**

Review the memory verse by playing Scripture Simon Says:

The teacher is Scripture Simon and begins by giving the first word of the key verse. The children respond by repeating it. Continue on in this fashion and then insert an incorrect word. The children must remain silent or they must start over. At first, the verse should be displayed for the children to follow, but after a few repetitions, remove the verse from view.

The game would sound like this:

Leader: Therefore

Class: Therefore

Leader: confess

Class: confess

Leader: your

Class: your

Leader: sandwich .....sins.....

Class: (should remain silent)