LESSON 2: TEN LEPERS

AIM: To teach that Jesus has the power to heal both the body and soul.

MEMORY VERSE: And the power of the Lord was present to heal them (Luke 5:17)

Suggested Presentation: Draw the outline of a man and cut into 13 jigsaw pieces. Write a word from the verse on each piece, jumble the words and reassemble.

OR: Fold paper fan-style, draw an outline of a man, cut around outline to make 10 ’lepers’ joined at the hands. Write memory verse along the cutout and draw smiling faces on each healed leper.

STORY: Luke 17:11-19

Leprosy is a dreadful disease. It affects the nerves of the body so that sufferers have no feeling in certain parts of their body, and consequently fingers and toes and even feet become damaged and destroyed. It is also very contagious and victims of leprosy usually have to live away from other people.

In the days of Jesus, there was no medicine or proper hospitals to treat lepers, and so they would often live together in groups out in the country where no one else lived. If they ever came into the town they would have to call out, “Unclean! Unclean!” as they walked, limped or crawled through the streets so that no one would come near them and catch the dreaded disease.

You can imagine what an awful life it was for a leper with no hope of recovery and no hope of ever being able to return to their family again. They could not work and earn money, so they had to rely on the food and clothing that other people threw away.
However, Jesus’ fame as a healer began to spread throughout the whole country and one day, as He entered a small village, ten lepers were waiting for Him. They knew that Jesus was their only hope, so they stood at a distance and called out as loud as they could, “Jesus, Master, take pity on us, help us!”

Jesus told them to go and show themselves to the priests immediately. As they obeyed and made their way, hobbling down the road, they were completely healed. Their leprosy was gone.

**DISCUSSION:**
Before telling the rest of the story, to build a sense of anticipation, ask the children at this point how they think the men would have felt. What would they have said or done?

The lepers would have been overwhelmed with great joy and kept on going, but one man turned back to Jesus. He was free of his disease and he shouted out with great joy his thanks to God. He ran to Jesus and knelt at His feet, thanking Him over and over again.

This man was not only healed in his body, but also received Jesus’ blessing on his soul. As he gave his thanks to God with a truly grateful heart, his faith was increased and Jesus sent him on his way full of good health.

**PERSONAL APPLICATION:**
Prepare a poster with centres of flowers and stalk as follows:

Cut petals out of light cardboard. Distribute one to each child. Ask them to think of something Jesus has done for them. Ask them to tell the whole group if time permits. Children then write their name on the petal and glue it onto the poster to complete the flowers.
In the days of Jesus, the disease of leprosy was widespread. A sufferer loses feeling in certain parts of the body as the nerves are affected, and eventually fingers and toes, even feet and hands can become so damaged that they are disfigured and useless.

Leprosy is a highly contagious disease. In Bible times, there was no medicine or hospitals to treat lepers, so they lived together in groups out in the country away from other people. If they ever came into town, they had to call out, “Unclean, unclean!” as they walked, limped or crawled through the streets to avoid passing on the dreaded disease to others. Lepers lived with no hope of recovery or ever being able to return to normal family life. They could not work and earn money, so they had to scrounge around for discarded food and clothing.

However, Jesus' fame as a healer began to spread throughout the whole country and one day, as He entered a small village, ten lepers were waiting for Him. They knew that Jesus was their only hope, so they stood at a distance and called out as loud as they could, “Jesus, Master, take pity on us, help us!”

Jesus told them to go and show themselves to the priests immediately. As they obeyed and hobbled down the road, they were completely healed. The lepers were overwhelmed at their miraculous healing, and continued in excitement and amazement down the road, but one man turned around and ran back to Jesus. He was free of his disease, and he shouted out with great joy his thanks to God. He knelt at the feet of Jesus and thanked him over and over again.

This man was not only healed in his body, but he received Jesus' blessing on his soul. As he gave thanks to God with a truly grateful heart, his faith in God grew. Jesus sent him on his way full of good health.
Jesus healed ten men of leprosy. Only one returned to say ......

1. In the squares going down, write the word that matches each picture.

2. Fill in the blank square across the top to find out what the leper said to Jesus.

| Colour in the picture of the ten lepers. |
| Circle the one whom you think ran back to say thank you to Jesus. |

Why do you think he looks happier than the other nine lepers?

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Decide the message below to find out how the lepers were miraculously healed.

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