



What a Mess

The Leper Who Said “Thanks!”

BIG IDEA: I can say, “Thank you, Jesus!”

BIBLE BASIS: Luke 17:11–19

KEY VERSE: “Give thanks to the LORD, because He is good. His faithful love continues forever.” Psalm 107:1 (NIRV)

SCHEDULE

2S & 3S CLASSES

ARRIVAL & PLAYTIME

10:30-10:55

2S & 3S LARGE GROUP

10:55-11:10

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

11:10-12:00

PRE-K & K CLASSES

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

10:30-11:15

PRE-K & KINDER LARGE GROUP

11:15-11:40

REVIEW ACTIVITIES

11:40-12:00

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LEADER DEVOTIONAL

We were all supposed to arrive in Nairobi on the same flight, but we got separated in the Paris airport. I waited a couple of minutes, but as we were already in danger of missing our flight, I ran, *Home Alone* style, to the gate and trusted they'd meet me there.

I got to the gate just in time for the final boarding call. There was no sign of my companions. I boarded at the very moment the ticketing agent warned that the doors were about to close.

Maybe my travel companions were already on the plane. Maybe they beat me there. Maybe a kind airport employee had picked them up on one of the little luggage carts and taken a shortcut to get them to the gate on time.

I searched the plane. They were nowhere to be found. I heard the door slam and the flight attendants instruct all passengers to take their seats. I was off to Kenya. Alone.

When I arrived in Nairobi, I found out that none of my bags had been checked onto my flight. I did manage to contact my companions, who had gotten on another flight scheduled to arrive the next morning. When everyone finally got in, only four of our twelve bags — most of which were filled with donations for the ministry we were visiting — had made it. We still didn't have the other eight, nor were we entirely certain where they were. It's not an adventure if everything goes as planned.

I've had a lot of adventures. Every adventure — every delayed flight, every lost bag, every obstacle — reminds me that I have far less control over my own life than I believe I do. What I do have control over is how I respond to those obstacles. I can complain about the unsympathetic agent that wouldn't hold the plane, or I can thank God that we all made it safely to Nairobi. I can grumble about the employees that lost our luggage, or I can thank God for providing just enough and recognize that I can get by on a lot less than I think I can. I can let my frustration get the better of me, or I can enjoy the ride with gratitude. Every unpredictable minute of it.

Casey Jordan
GO! Contributor



SMALL GROUP SKILL BUILDING

The Magic Circle

When it comes time for you to sit down with your small group, there is no better configuration than a circle. If you have a group of younger kids who find it difficult to seat themselves in a nice circle, have them first hold hands in a circle and then sit down. The benefits of sitting in a circle are well worth the time it takes to organize your kids in the beginning. Here's why:

Everybody feels like they are a part of the group. When your group is arranged in a big clump, the kids sitting toward the outside often don't feel like they're a part of what's going on and their attention goes elsewhere. In a circle, no one is on the outside.

The kids will talk to one another, not just you. You are the facilitator of conversation, not the center of it. If you organize your group like a miniature classroom, kids will become accustomed to talking and listening only to you. A circle allows kids to feel like they're connected to everyone in the group.

It's easier to manage. When there's a direct line of sight between you and all of the kids, they're more apt to behave. You can quickly and easily address interruptions. Are there two kids distracting each other? Separate them in the circle. Is there a kid who is more difficult to manage? Seat him next to you in the circle.

You can use eye contact to your advantage. Eye contact invites participation. If you have a kid who seldom participates, consider placing her across from you in the circle where she'll get more eye contact. Conversely, you can place kids who dominate conversation next to you.



☆ PLAY TIME ACTIVITY

LOTS OF DOTS

Supplies: Dot stickers (preferably red, approx. 3 per child), dice (1)

Directions: Have the children roll a dice, then give them that number of dot stickers to stick on their body (arms, hands, face, etc.). Next, ask the children to share about things they are thankful for. For each thing they share, they may remove one dot from themselves and place it somewhere on the leader. Continue playing until all of the dots have been removed from the children and placed on the leader.

Say: Wow! Look at all of the dots on me! In today's true Bible story, there are some people with red spots all over their skin, but they're not stickers. The red spots are from a painful disease called leprosy. We'll hear all about it in just a little bit. We'll also learn that **we can say, "Thank you, Jesus!"**

Question: What do you think it would be like to have painful red sores on your body? What do you think Jesus could do to help you?

BIBLE BRIDGE (Bible Memorization Activity)

Supplies: None

Today's Bible verse:

*"Give thanks (put hands in prayer position)
to the LORD (point up),
because He is good (two thumbs up).
His faithful Love (put hands over heart)
Continues forever." (Spread hands out)
Psalm 107:1 (extend hands like you're holding a book).*

Directions: Practice the verse together several times. Next, choose two children to form a "bridge" by facing each other and holding hands in the air. Tell the other children to get into a line and walk in a circle under the "bridge." As the children march in a circle, sing the following words to the tune of "London Bridge Is Falling Down."

*Can you say our memory verse, memory verse, memory verse?
Can you say our memory verse?
It's your turn!*

At the end of the tune, have the two children forming the bridge lower their arms around the child who is under the bridge. Encourage the child who is trapped under the bridge to say the verse aloud. When finished, have the "trapped" child replace one of the children making up the bridge and repeat. Continue until everyone has had a turn saying the verse.

2s & 3s – Large Group at 10:55
Pre-K & K – Large Group at 11:15



★ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

After the Large Group story time is over, help the children transition into the small group activity time. There are multiple activity options designed to help kids remember the Bible story and Big Idea, discover personal application, and respond to God through art, prayer, and Bible reading. Offer as many activities as your time and space allows.

WRAP IT UP (Application Activity)

Supplies: Toilet paper (1 roll per group)

Say: In our true Bible story for today, the 10 lepers had a terrible disease called “leprosy” that gave them painful sores all over their skin. When Jesus healed them, only one of the lepers said “thanks!” Let’s wrap ourselves in bandages and pretend like we’re the leper who said “thanks!”

Directions: Use the roll of toilet paper to wrap the children in pretend bandages. Depending on the number of children in your group, you can wrap their whole bodies or just a single body part like their arm, leg, or head. After wrapping them up, ask them, “Why do you think it was so hard to have leprosy?” Next, one by one, have the children tear off their bandages and shout, “Thank you, Jesus!”

Question: Jesus hasn’t healed us from leprosy, but He’s given us so many other wonderful things. What is something Jesus gives you that you’re thankful for?

STORYTIME WITH MABEL (Bible Story Review Activity)

Supplies: Messy Mabel picture or pig plush toy (1 per group)

Directions: Ask the children the questions below. Each question will help them recount a part of today’s Bible story. When a child wants to answer a question, hand them the Messy Mabel plush or picture. Remind the children that they can only talk if they’re holding Mabel. Continue until the whole story has been recounted.

1. What was wrong with the ten men who came to Jesus?
(*They were very sick with something called leprosy.*)
2. What did the sick men do when they saw Jesus?
(*They called out and asked Him to help them.*)
3. What did Jesus tell the men to do?
(*He told them to go show themselves to the priests.*)
4. What happened while the men were on their way to the priests?
(*They were healed! Their skin got better.*)
5. How many men came back to thank Jesus?
(*Just one!*)

8.1

Small Group Lesson | Pre-K & K



THANKS FOR MY FAMILY (Response to God Activity)

Supplies: GO! Home Guide (printed on back of coloring sheet, 1 per child), crayons

Directions: Give each child a GO! Home Guide and some crayons or markers. The sheet will have a space for children to draw. Tell the children to draw a picture of their family. When finished, ask the children to show their pictures and tell about it.

Say: Jesus gives us so many things we can be thankful for, but our families are one of the best things! Let's pray to Jesus and say "thank you" for our families.

Prayer: Begin by asking if any of the children would like to pray. Allow any children who want to pray the opportunity to do so. When they're finished, close the prayer by thanking Jesus for your family and for the families of the children.

Question: What was your favorite part of this story? Why did you like that part?

Question: Why do you think only one of the lepers said "thank you" to Jesus? Why didn't they all say "thank you?"