Thanksgiving Bible Lesson: Jesus Heals Ten Men

A ready-to-teach lesson pack for Sunday school, children's church, homeschool or family devotions

Bible passage: Luke 17:11–19 (Jesus heals ten men with leprosy)

Big idea: God gives us so many good gifts. We should always come back and say thank you.

Ages: Preschool (4–5), early elementary (6–8), upper elementary (9–11)

Lesson length: 30–45 minutes

MEMORY VERSE

"O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever."

Psalm 107:1 (KJV)

Lesson plan at a glance

- Welcome and opening question (5 minutes)
- Bible story with ten paper dolls (10 minutes)
- Discussion questions (5–10 minutes)
- Memory verse activity (5 minutes)
- Game (5–10 minutes)
- Craft and closing prayer (10 minutes)

Supplies

- Bible, this printed lesson pack, crayons, scissors and glue
- 10 paper dolls (page 6) or ten craft sticks
- Brown paper or card stock for the hand turkey, a googly eye (optional), and a small soft ball for the game

What's in this pack

- Pages 2–3: Teacher story script, discussion questions and closing prayer
- Page 4: Coloring page – the healed man comes back to thank Jesus
- Page 5: Memory-verse cards (8 per page)
- Page 6: Ten fold-over paper dolls for telling the story
- Pages 7–8: "Thank You, Jesus" hand-turkey template and feather cut-outs
- Page 9: "Ten Thank-Yous" take-home challenge

Teacher Story Script

Read Luke 17:11–19 from a children's Bible, or tell the story in your own words with this script.

Opening question (5 minutes)

Ask: "Has anyone ever given you a present? What did you say?" Let children share. Then ask: "Have you ever forgotten to say thank you?" Share a time when you forgot too. Explain that today's story is about ten men who received an amazing gift from Jesus, but only one remembered to come back and say thank you.

The ten sick men

One day, Jesus was walking along the road to Jerusalem. As He came near a small village, He saw ten men standing far away from everyone else.

These men were very sick. They had a skin disease called leprosy. Back then, people with leprosy had to live apart from their families and friends so others wouldn't catch it. They were lonely and sad. They couldn't go to work, or to the market, or hug the people they loved.

When the ten men saw Jesus, they shouted as loudly as they could: "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" (Hold up all ten paper dolls, sad side facing the children.)

Jesus heals them

Jesus looked at them with love. He said, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." In those days, the priests checked whether someone was healed and could go back home.

The ten men started walking. And as they walked, something wonderful happened. They looked down at their hands and arms. Their skin was clean and healthy! They were healed! (Turn all ten paper dolls around to show their happy faces.)

Only one came back

Nine of the men kept running. They were so excited to go home that they forgot all about Jesus. (Move nine dolls away.)

But one man stopped. He turned around and ran back to Jesus, shouting praises to God at the top of his voice. He threw himself down at Jesus' feet and said, "Thank you!" This man was a Samaritan, someone from a group of people that many others looked down on.

Jesus asked, "Weren't there ten men who were healed? Where are the other nine? Is this foreigner the only one who came back to give thanks to God?" Then Jesus said to him, "Get up and go. Your faith has made you well."

What this story teaches us

All ten men received a gift, but only one remembered to say thank you. God gives every one of us good gifts every day: our families, food, homes, friends, and most of all His love. Thanksgiving is a perfect time to be like the one man who came back. But God wants us to be thankful every day, not just once a year.

Discussion Questions, Memory Verse and Prayer

Choose the questions that suit your group's age.

Preschool (ages 4–5)

- How many sick men were there? (Count together to ten!)
- What did Jesus do for them?
- How many came back to say thank you?
- What can you say thank you to God for today?

Early elementary (ages 6–8)

- Why did the ten men have to live away from their families?
- What did Jesus tell them to do?
- When were they healed?
- Why do you think nine men forgot to say thank you?
- How do you think Jesus felt when only one came back?

Upper elementary (ages 9–11)

- The man who came back was a Samaritan. Why is that detail important?
- Jesus said, "Your faith has made you well." What do you think He meant?
- What are some "gifts" from God that we often forget to thank Him for?
- What is the difference between feeling thankful and showing thankfulness?
- How can you show thankfulness this week at home or school?

Memory verse: echo and action

"O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever." Psalm 107:1 (KJV)

Say the verse in short phrases and have children echo you, adding actions:

- "O give thanks" – put hands together as if praying
- "unto the LORD" – point up
- "for he is good" – thumbs up
- "for his mercy" – hug yourself
- "endureth for ever" – spread arms wide

Repeat three times, getting faster each time. Then try it in a whisper and in a "big voice." (Mercy means God's kind, loving care. Endureth for ever means it never ends.)

Closing prayer

"Dear God, thank You for all the good gifts You give us every day: our families, our food, our homes and our friends. Thank You most of all for loving us. Help us to be like the man who came back to say thank you. Help us to remember You every day. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Only One Came Back to Say Thank You

Luke 17:15–16 · Color the healed man thanking Jesus while the other nine hurry away.



Memory-Verse Cards

Cut out the cards and send one home with each child.

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O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Psalm 107:1 (KJV)

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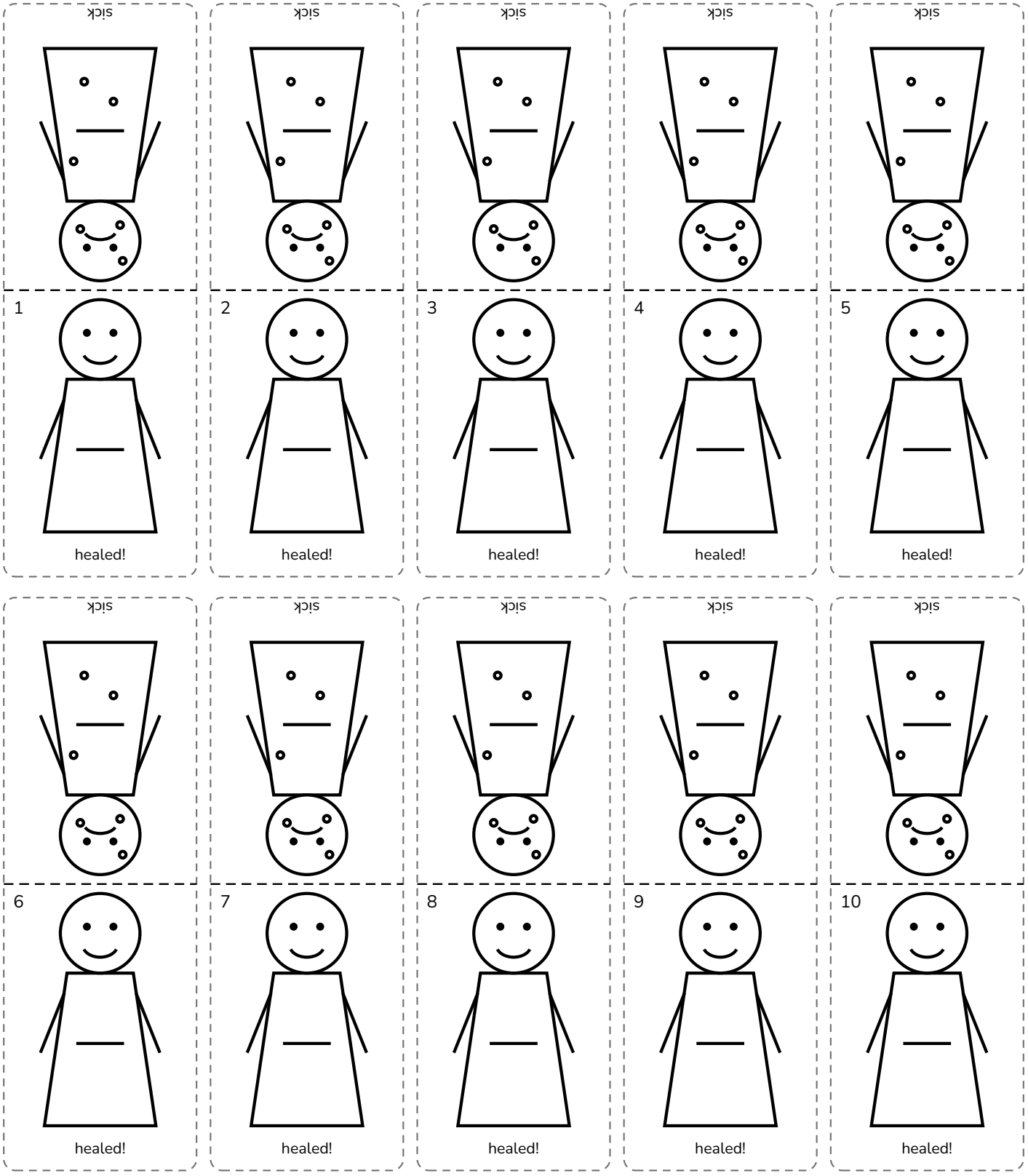
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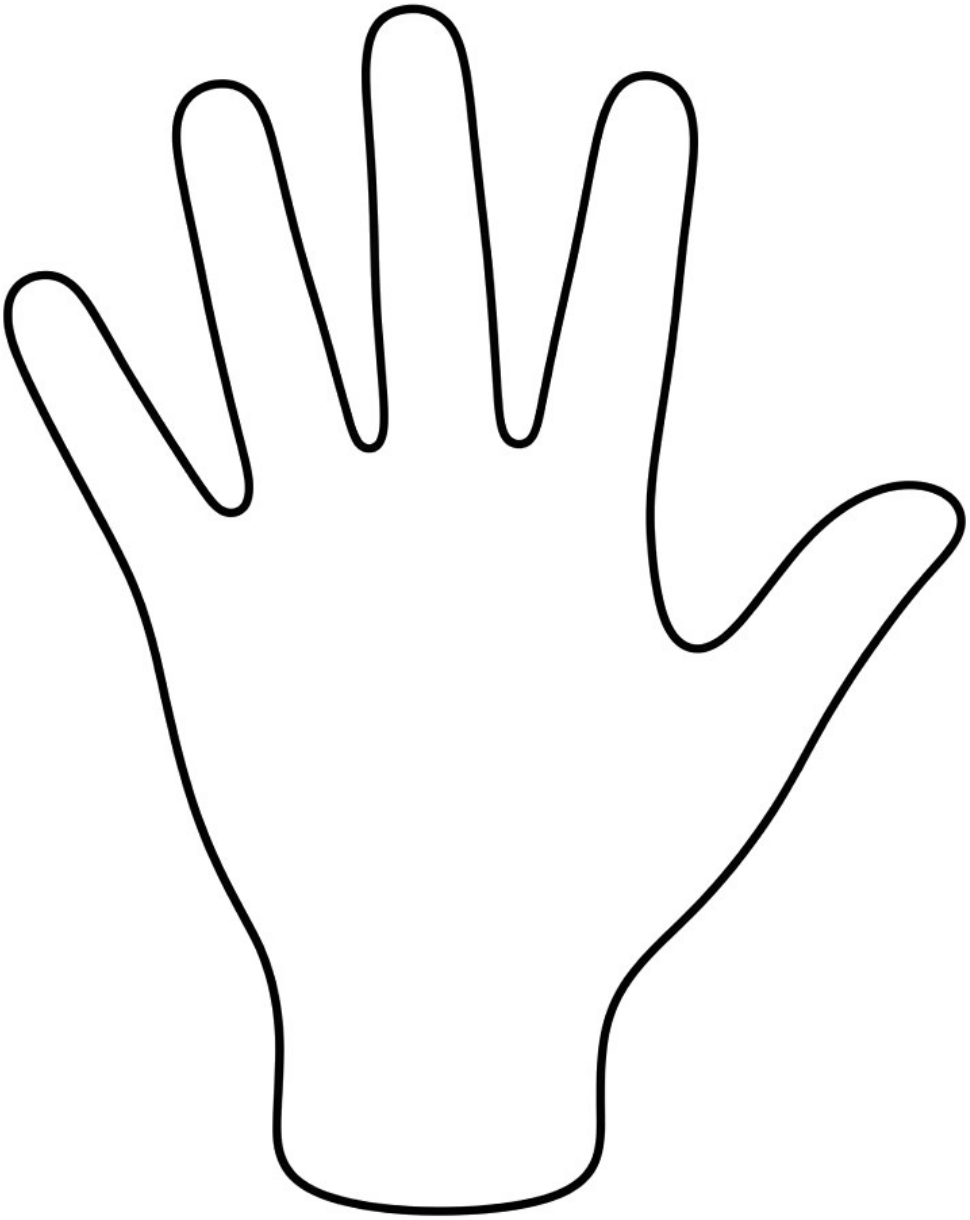
Ten Paper Dolls: Sick and Healed

Cut out each doll, fold on the dashed line and stand it up like a tent. Turn it around to show the man is healed!



“Thank You, Jesus” Hand Turkey: Hand Template

Trace your own hand, or cut out this hand. The thumb is the turkey’s head and the fingers are feathers.



Glue onto card stock, add the feathers from page 8, a googly eye and the red wattle.

Feather Cut-Outs, Wattle and Verse Strip

On each feather, write or draw something you're thankful to God for.

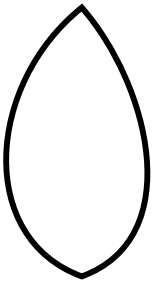
I'm thankful for

I'm thankful for

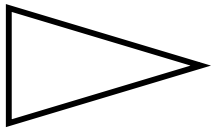
I'm thankful for

I'm thankful for

I'm thankful for



red wattle



orange beak

O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Psalm 107:1 (KJV) · glue across the bottom of your turkey

My Ten Thank-Yous

Take-home challenge: one thank-you for each of the ten men in the story!

For one week, write or draw ten things you thank God for. Talk about your list with your family at dinner.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

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