LESSON 15

Jesus Heals a Leper



Aim: **To show the children that, by healing this man's leprosy, Jesus made it possible for him to come into contact with other people and take part in communal worship again. Jesus cleanses us from sin and makes it possible for us to draw close to God.**

Scripture Reading: **Mark 1:40-45**

Memory Verse: **1 John 1:7**
... we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Presenting the Lesson

Starting Point

Think of a place you do not like going to or a job you do not like doing. Why don't you like it? Let the class respond. Sometimes people don't like a place or a task because it makes them dirty.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. In the time when Jesus lived on earth there was no cure for leprosy. It is a terrible skin disease and people catch it very easily from one another. Therefore, people were very afraid of those with leprosy. They were called untouchable and unclean. They were forced to live outside the towns and villages. That also meant that lepers could not worship God in the synagogue or temple. **Make sure that the children understand what "unclean" means in this situation.**
2. **Show Picture 15. Point out the leper.** His hands and feet are bandaged, see? That is because of the sores on his skin. He has a stick, which means his disease has weakened him. He is kneeling in front of Jesus, stopping him from passing by. He is begging for Jesus' help. "If you are willing," he says, "you can heal me and make me clean, Jesus!"
3. Jesus wanted to help the man with leprosy. He did what no-one had done for a long time: he touched that poor man. We touch people every time we greet them and sometimes while we talk to them or want to show that we care for them. No-one touched that man for fear of catching his disease. "I am willing," Jesus replied. "Be clean!"
4. Immediately, the man was healed. There was no sign left of his leprosy. His skin was healed and he was not considered unclean anymore. He was so happy that he told everyone. That made everybody want to meet Jesus.

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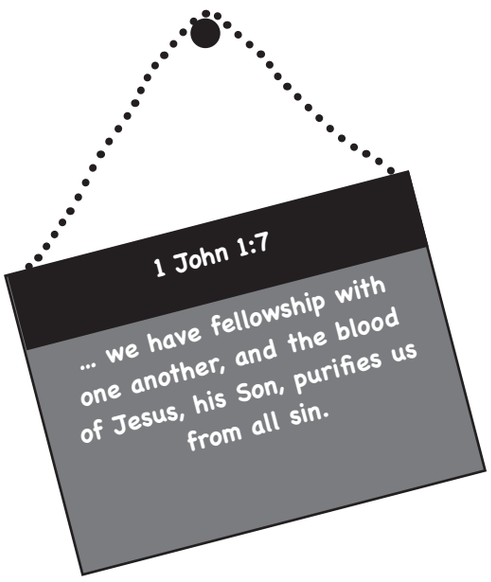
Our Response to the Story

Sin has the same effect as leprosy. Leprosy separated people from their family and friends. It even prevented them from entering the synagogue or temple. In the same way sin spoils our relationship with other people and separates us from God our Father. Jesus came to heal us and make us clean so that we may enter into God's presence and enjoy a relationship with him.

Instil the Memory Verse

Make up a story about a boy or girl who was wearing a new shirt or dress when some tea was spilled on it. It left a dirty stain on the new fabric, spoiling the whole garment. The boy (girl) was very glad when the stain was washed out.

Sin leaves a stain on our lives. By dying for us Jesus washed away that stain so that God can forgive us when we ask him. Jesus made it possible for us to be clean and blameless in God's eyes.



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