



Faith Adventures for Children Together



Free to use – please acknowledge when using beyond local church children's and youth work so others can find and use the resource themselves.

*Committed to URC Children Together:
enabling everyone to grow more like Jesus
together in the home, church and beyond.*

For guidance on the purpose of the resource and how to use it as a launch pad for your engagement with children and families, please use this link: www.bit.ly/FACT-how-to-sheet

Title: Luke 17: 11–19

Theme: God provides... healing

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Introduction: What would be helpful to know in my planning? Please use this section as a reference and information guide for leaders only – we don't expect it to be read out to the children.

There are many stories throughout the Bible which describe how God provides. Stories of healing feature often in the Gospels. Today's healing focuses on the ten lepers, their healing, and on the one man who came back and thanked Jesus for what he did.

Healing is a subject that needs to be approached carefully. There are examples of people asking God for healing and not receiving it – sometimes people suggest that to not be healed must mean a lack of faith or not asking persistently enough.

Today's session is focusing more on the different types of healing that God may provide. However, this subject may prompt some searching questions. Some in your group may have had a negative experience with healing or heard negative stories. Rather than avoiding the fact that some people are not healed, be honest with your group and wonder together. They are big questions, but they are questions we shouldn't be afraid to face. You know your group best: read the session so you can decide if it's right for you.

Together – prayer and games

How do I help my group to come together and get started with the theme?

Gathering prayer

Jesus, our friend,

(use alternate index fingers to point and tap the middle of opposite palms)

Be with us today

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move up and down twice)

As we share together,

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move one forward and one back and alternate twice)

Pray together,

(hands together, palm against palm, as though praying)

Play together,

(hands to each side, palms up, make two small circles outwards)

And get to know you better

(point up with one hand)

As children together in your family.

(one hand out, palm down in front of you, move it sideways and up in three 'steps' as though to indicate children of three different heights)

AMEN.

(two thumbs up, and bring fists slowly together to meet in front of you)

OR

Thank you, God, for bringing us together today.

Help us to grow closer to you in all we do.

**Help us to speak and to listen, to learn and to grow together,
adventuring together with you wherever we may go.**

Amen.

Active game – Marco Polo

The game is a light-hearted reminder of the character in the story who returns to Jesus – and that not everyone finds their way back to him.

Choose one member of the group to be "Marco". All other players must close their eyes while Marco hides. From their hiding place, the chosen player says "Marco" – they can choose how loudly or quietly; whether they use a silly voice or their own. If the other players move, they must say "Polo" so that Marco can hear them approaching. The other players must work together to make sure they can hear when Marco calls. When they reach the correct hiding place, another player can be chosen to be "Marco".

Quieter game – What's changed?

Create a circle – take a few minutes to note what each person is wearing, what their hair is like, whether they have jewellery on etc. Then invite one person to leave the room and change something about their appearance. The aim, when they come back in, is for someone to guess what has changed. For extra challenge, reverse the task, so that the person who comes back into the room has to guess the changes everyone else has made to themselves.

Experience – Bible story and songs

Hear, watch and sing the Bible story

When planning the session, the team of writers read many different Bible versions to find the one that is most suitable for the age range. We also look at vocabulary and how God/Jesus is described. We are aware that a lot of churches stick with one Bible version. We appreciate it can be difficult to have many different Bible versions and that access to them online isn't always easy. Therefore, we have provided the passage in the recommended version for your convenience.

For this story we recommend using *The Voice*.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2017%3A11-19&version=VOICE>

¹¹ Jesus was still pressing toward Jerusalem, taking a road that went along the border between Samaria (*considered undesirable territory*) and Galilee. ¹² On the outskirts of a border town along this road, he was greeted from a distance by a group of ten people who were under quarantine because of an ugly and disgusting skin disease known as leprosy. Lepers (*shouting across the distance*): ¹³ Jesus, Master, show mercy to us! Jesus: ¹⁴ Go now and present yourselves to the priests *for inspection of your disease*. They went, and before they reached the priests, their skin disease was healed, *leaving no trace of the disease that scarred them and separated them from the community*. ¹⁵ One of them, the instant he realised he had been healed, turned and ran back to Jesus, shouting praises to God. ¹⁶ He prostrated himself facedown at Jesus' feet. Leper: Thank You! Thank You! Now this fellow happened to be *not a Jew* but a Samaritan. Jesus: ¹⁷ Didn't all ten receive the same healing this fellow did? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸ Was the only one who came back to give God praise an outsider? ¹⁹ (*To the Samaritan man*): Get up and go your way. Your faith has made you healthy again.

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Where can I find the story online?

Under-fives: The Thankful Leper, by Saddleback Kids

<https://youtu.be/LzZUDRrKgl8?si=-rxYuKH683CXpXq5>

Five-to-elevens: God's story: Jesus and the Ten Lepers, by Crossroad Kids' Club

<https://youtu.be/42ENYLJvEVU?si=yWlqxB1jgrX1ERk>

Songs to support the story

Under-fives: Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes, by Mr Tumble and Friends

<https://youtu.be/fvEtwhui1k0?si=d8qVG8kldlszZe0i>

Five-to-elevens: I Am the Lord Who Heals You, by Melodies from God

<https://youtu.be/h5fpu0Fh3tg?si=5RjZc9K6oQfolwMv>

Explore – ways into the theme

Ideas and activities to explore this week's Bible passage together

A new way to explore the theme

Story Scrapbook

Today we are going to gather some stories about a time when we have been healed or needed healing.

Invite everyone, including the leaders, to engage in this activity. You could also open it up to the whole congregation.

You may want to offer a gentle reminder that healing comes in many forms and that each person's story is unique.

Help children remember and share a personal experience of healing by focusing on one moment in time, using sensory details rather than explanations.



"I Remember a Time When I Was Healed"

Today we're going to tell a true story from our own lives. Our story begins with one sentence:

"I remember a time when I was healed..."

Healing can mean many different things:

- Sometimes our bodies heal after being sick
- Sometimes our hearts heal after being hurt
- Sometimes a friendship is healed
- Sometimes we feel less afraid
- Sometimes someone helps us feel loved again

There is no wrong answer.

Choose the memory that feels right for you.

Story Sharing No-No's

No laughing at someone else's story.

No interrupting.

No giving advice.

No comparing stories.

No talking immediately after someone shares.

Respect everyone's story.

Story Sharing Yes's

Listen carefully.

Be fully present.

Be yourself.

Share only what feels safe.

Thank each person by giving them your full attention.

Today you are not going to explain your story.

Instead, imagine you are a camera. A camera notices.
Imagine you are a microphone. A microphone hears.

Your job is simply to let us experience the moment with you. Using describing words:

- Instead of saying, "I was scared," you might say, "My hands were shaking. I looked at the floor."
- Instead of saying, "Everything got better," you might say, "My nana hugged me. I could smell her perfume."

Small details help us step into your story.

Reflecting time

Invite children to sit comfortably.

Speak slowly.

Take a slow breath.

Think of the words: I remember a time when I was healed...

Don't choose a whole year.

Don't choose a whole day.

Choose one small moment.

Where are you?

Look around.

What do you see?

What colours are there?

What sounds do you hear?

Can you smell anything?

What does the air feel like?

Who is there?

What are they doing?

What are your hands doing?

What is happening inside your body?

What emotions do you feel?

Stay in that moment.

Just notice.

When you're ready, slowly open your eyes.

Writing Time

Write or draw your story beginning with:

I remember a time when I was healed...

As you write or draw ask yourself:

- What did I see?
- What did I hear?
- What did I smell?
- What could I touch?
- What was happening around me?
- What was happening inside me?
- What did someone say?
- What did my body feel like?

Remember:

Don't explain.

Don't tell us what you learned.

Just let us experience the moment with you.

Write between four and five sentences.
Finish with:
Your first name and the year it happened.

Sharing Circle

Using a talking stick: One person shares at a time. Everyone else listens.
After each story have a pause.
No comments, no applause, just a few seconds of silence.

After everyone has shared, invite the group to reflect.

You might ask:

What was it like to remember a moment of healing?

What did you notice about healing from everyone's stories?

There are no right or wrong answers.

Thank everyone for their courage, honesty, and respectful listening.

Here is an example of a story:

"It was a relief feeling the nurse slowly cut the cast of my arm. After six weeks of being in it, I was finally free of the itchiness and free to do normal things again. My arm was healed, and I could carry on with all the little things I hadn't been able to do recently. My arm feels light and strange too. The skin is flaky, but I am healed.
Judy 2019"

Modern parables

Jesus used stories to help people understand the things of God, even though they weren't necessarily overtly Christian stories. Lots of children's books can be used in a similar way as a conversation starter on the week's theme. Examples are shared here but you may think of others too. If you are to use the modern parable, consider buying a copy or borrowing it from the library so children see the actual book and can explore the illustrations more (and support the author).



The Smartest Giant in Town by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler (2002: MacMillan) ISBN10: 9781509830374

Share the story together or listen to this song by Malcolm and Julia Donaldson, which tells George's story.

<https://youtu.be/iJ4CHVIlv78?si=q8RsCpe6JOC8HAZL>

George the Giant kindly shares with animals he meets on his journey; they surprise him at the end of the story with a thank you gift!

- George helped lots of animals – how did they say thank you?
- Do they all come back to say thank you?
- How did Jesus help the people in the Bible story?

Talking together: How might we talk about the Bible story together?

- Why did no one else turn back to Jesus?
- I wonder why it is that not all people are physically healed.

- I wonder how the peoples' lives/hearts were changed because of the healing Jesus gave.
- I wonder what you find surprising about the story

Wondering: ways to reflect on the theme

- Have you ever been healed?
- What does it mean to be healed?
- I wonder who heals in our society.
- Are you a healer?
- Is healing a one-off thing?

What's in the box? (for under-fives)

Use the special box or bag and sing, "What's in the box/bag? What's in the box/bag? Let's see, let's see, what's in the box/bag?" (to the tune of The Farmer's in the Dell). Pull out the things one by one and then let the children play with them, talking about the theme or the story in simple terms.

This week's box could include:

- Bandages – encourage the children to play with the bandages; perhaps they can try wrapping up their friend's arm, or you can help them to be the one that is having a bandage applied. What is it like to help someone else in this way? What is it like to be the one that helps? Talk about how bandages can help protect wounds from being harmed, or to help a part of the body heal by being still and supported. Talk about what the children think it means to be healed.
- A broken toy, such as a teddy with a torn or missing ear – pass the teddy round and let the children comfort it, give it cuddles etc. Think together about how the toy could be fixed. Does it need fixing or not? Is it loveable just as it is? Does healing always mean making something better physically?
- A simple jigsaw or puzzle (around 5-10 pieces – suitable for very young children to complete). Think with the children about what the puzzle looks like when it is in pieces, and what the puzzle looks like when the pieces are joined together. What do the children think when part of the puzzle is pieced together? What do they like best? Talk about how healing might be about putting something back together or making something whole.
- A heart of some kind – for example a cushion or a heart made of cardboard plus plasters. Talk about different kinds of healing. Sometimes someone is healed when a part of their body is fixed. Sometimes healing is about making their heart feel whole and at peace. Talk about how God can help make people feel better when they are sad or broken-hearted. Give each child some plasters and pass around the heart. They might like to stick some plasters on the heart and remember people they know who are sad and need healing, or things they would like healing for.
- A tactile cross of wood or fabric (a cross shape reminds us of Jesus. Jesus/God loves us and it's always in the box because Jesus/God always loves us!).
- A set of play people to act out the story or random shapes/bits you can move around to make pictures from the story as you tell it (e.g. stones, felt, twigs etc.).

Express – prayer and creative activities

Praying together: enabling your group to respond spiritually

Prayerful activity – healing

You will need:

- a range of pictures, some of which might be familiar to the group, such as their church, local playground; and others more generic e.g. a picture of the world, a group of people. Cut the pictures into five or six pieces before the start of the session
- glue sticks
- gold pens or crayons
- card to glue the pictures on to



What you do:

Take each picture in turn. Arrange the pieces to make the picture whole again.

Say the words: “Loving God, you know the brokenness in...”, and name the image on the picture – for example, “the world”. Encourage the group to help glue the pieces back together on the card.

As the picture is glued back together, pray for any needs the children and young people wish to name.

Say: “Thank you that you are a God that heals. Help us to be healers like you.”

Once the picture is stuck back together you might like to ask the children and young people to use the gold pens to cover along the cracks. Explain that this is a practice that is used in Japanese ceramics to repair broken pottery. It is called *kintsugi*. This makes the pot stronger than it was to start with and even more beautiful.

Say: “Thank you that you are a God that puts things back together. We thank you that through the power of your healing, things are made strong and are beautiful.

Help us to see the strength and beauty in all the places and people we have been praying for today.”

Spoken prayer

Under-fives

Dear God,

Thank you for healing us in the way we need healing,
Healing our hearts when we are sad and lonely.

The healing we receive may not be what we expect but we are thankful for it anyway.

Help us to learn more about you God,

And help us to trust that you know what we need.

Amen.

Five-to-eleven

Dear God,

Thank you for healing our hearts.

(Hold hands to heart.)

Thank you that you make us all whole

So that we may know you.

(Outline a circle shape with hands.)

Thank you for the person who thanked Jesus for healing them.

Like the leper, help us to be kind and thankful for when others do kind things for us. *(Sign "Thank you": tap four fingers to your chin and then pull them away.)*

Thank you for doctors and nurses who heal us in our world now.

Help those who are unwell and poorly to feel your healing embrace.

(Give yourself a hug.)

Amen.

(Bring hands together.)

Responding together

Here are some suggested crafts and activities, and there is a colouring sheet at the end of this resource. You could also use small play toys and/or have a basket of resources available so children can choose their own way to respond.

With an online group, plan whether to deliver any resources in advance or how you will encourage them to use what they've got to hand in their response.

However you do it, it is good for the adults to engage in the response too, and all chat together.

Kintsugi Biscuits

Ingredients

- 125g Baking Margarine
- 55g Caster Sugar
- 180g Plain Flour
- Icing and a selection of sweets and sprinkles to decorate

Method

- Pre-heat your oven to Gas mark five/190c
- Mix the margarine and sugar together until smooth
- Add in the flour and mix until it forms a ball
- If you have time, chill your dough
- Roll out the dough to 1cm thick on a surface sprinkled with flour
- Use shaped cutters to cut out biscuits from your dough



- Bake until the biscuits are golden brown (about 15 mins)
- Once cooled, break your biscuits into sections
- Use icing (coloured using yellow or gold food colouring if preferred) to “mend” the biscuits
- Use sweets and sprinkles to decorate the icing

If you don't have time to make the biscuits in your session, bring ready-made biscuits to break and mend.

Everyday with Jesus – Walking the Way

What could we do this week to carry on what we've learned? Maybe members of the group could come up with a suggestion. If not, get them to choose from these two challenges:

- Talk to someone older or younger than you and ask them to tell you something about God's healing.
- Take some time to notice at school, home and in your community who the healers are and how healing takes place. I wonder if there is something you can fix.

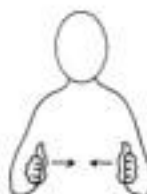
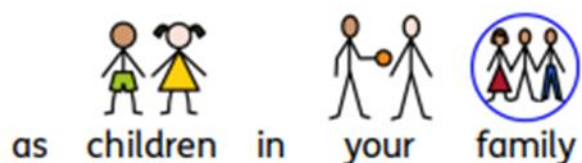
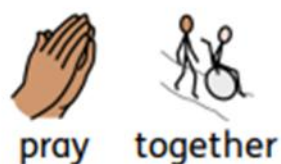
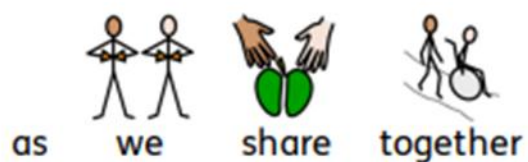
We hope you enjoyed exploring the story of **healing of the lepers** with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing sharon.lloyd@urc.org.uk

Please join the Faith Adventures Facebook Group bit.ly/FACT_FB

Why not have a look at next week's resource on **God provides wisdom**





The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

and forgive us our sins As we forgive those who sin against us

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory

For ever and ever . Amen

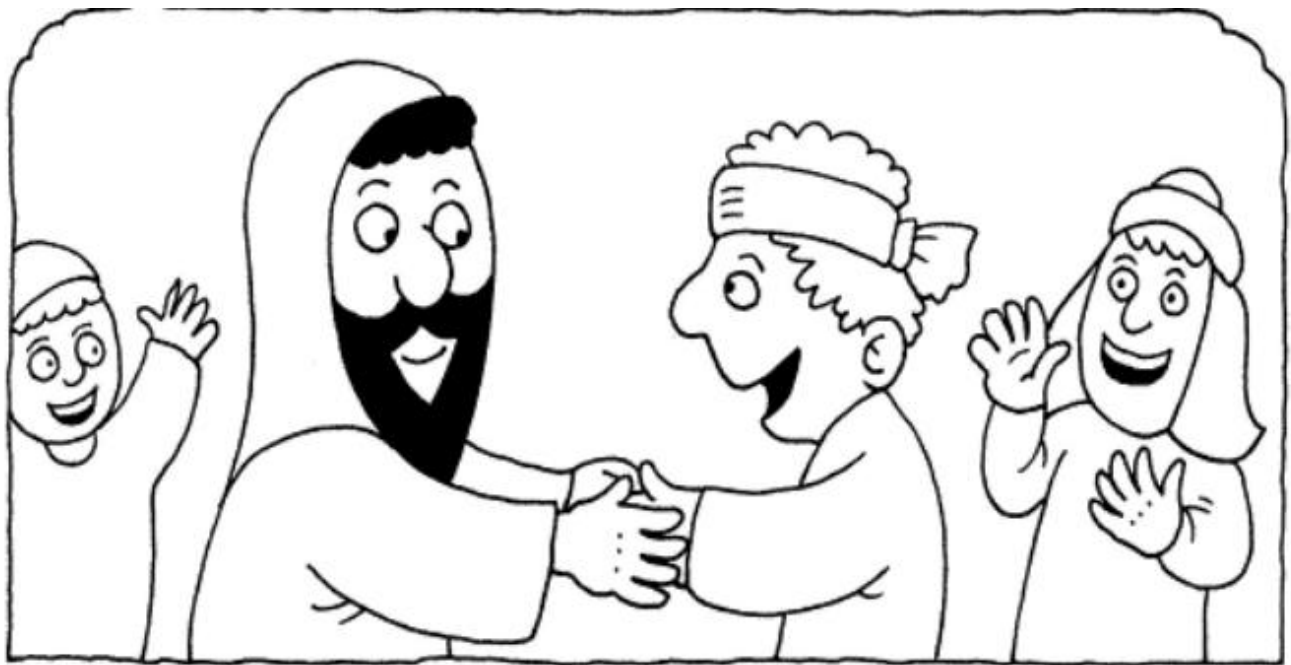


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