



## Monday: At a Distance

**PRAY:** Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

**READ: Luke 17:11-13**

<sup>11</sup> Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee.

<sup>12</sup> As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance <sup>13</sup> and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

**UNDERSTAND:** *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

1. Begin by underlining nouns with a single line, double underline verbs, and circle descriptive words.
2. Make a list of the key words/phrases and think about what they mean.

**Think About It:** The lepers stood at a distance. Leprosy was such a severe disease people would not approach the infected nor would the infected approach others. Read Leviticus 13:45-46; Numbers 5:2. Lepers lived in isolation. So often our sin, or the things we do that we are ashamed of, isolate us. We feel as though we have nowhere to turn. Who could possibly understand, or who would want to understand, what I am going through? It's embarrassing. Painful. Certainly no one would, or could, help me. We feel isolated, left to battle our disease, addiction, hurt, or hangup alone. But what if we did "call out"?

James 5:16: Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

Matthew 11:28; Jesus says, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

**APPLY:** *What is this passage calling me to do?*

**What are some areas in life where you feel isolated or "at a distance"?**

**What would it look like for you to "confess your sins" to someone? Who would it be? How would you take the first step?**

**PRAY:** Ask God to identify some areas where you need help. Ask God to help you identify someone to come alongside you for confession and healing.



## Tuesday: As They Went

**PRAY:** Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

**READ: Luke 17:14**

<sup>11</sup> When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.

**UNDERSTAND:** *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

1. Begin by underlining nouns with a single line, double underline verbs, and circle descriptive words.
2. Make a list of the key words/phrases and think about what they mean.

**Think About It:** "As they went." There is so much to be gained by understanding God's way and then trying to do it. Being obedient to God does not guarantee health or wealth or any sort of good fortune. It does, however, promise that we will know God better through it and through knowing God we have freedom (John 15:14; 14:15; 2 John 1:6; James 1:25). God's word does not always make sense to us --turn the other cheek, forgive enemies, give generously, love unconditionally. But, it is in following these things that life makes the most sense. Whatever it is that you are dealing with you will not find solutions or relief or help doing what you're currently doing. There is no healing without obedience.

**APPLY:** *What is this passage calling me to do?*

**In what areas of our life do we struggle to obey because we don't know the outcome?**

**What specific areas of obedience are you ignoring because it seems too difficult or doesn't make sense?**

**PRAY:** Ask God to identify some areas where you need to be more obedient. Ask God to help you take steps to live out more of his commands in everyday life.



### Wednesday: Turn Around

**PRAY:** Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

**READ: Luke 17:15-16**

<sup>15</sup> One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. <sup>16</sup> He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

**UNDERSTAND:** *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

1. Begin by underlining nouns with a single line, double underline verbs, and circle descriptive words.
2. Make a list of the key words/phrases and think about what they mean.

**Think About It:** "And he was a Samaritan." Why was that detail added? Maybe as a Samaritan he recognized that he was not worthy. Maybe he realized that anything Jesus did was more than he deserved. Maybe that fact was humbling. Maybe that fact should humble us also. Thankfulness begins with humility and leads to action. The Samaritan didn't just stop and think to himself, "I am so thankful." He went back. Stopped what he wanted to do to return to give thanks. How often are we truly humbled by thankfulness so much that we actually do something about it?

WHAT IF GOD IS BLESSING YOU SO THAT YOU CAN TURN AROUND AND BLESS OTHERS?

**APPLY:** *What is this passage calling me to do?*

**How was the Samaritan's attitude different than others?**

**What actions should result from an attitude of thanksgiving?**

**PRAY:** Ask God to identify some areas where you need help. Ask God to help you identify someone to come alongside you for confession and healing.



**Thursday: 1 out of 10**

**PRAY:** Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

**READ: Luke 17:17-18**

<sup>17</sup> Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? <sup>18</sup> Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?"

**UNDERSTAND:** *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

3. Begin by underlining nouns with a single line, double underline verbs, and circle descriptive words.
4. Make a list of the key words/phrases and think about what they mean.

**Think About It:** "Where are the other nine?" How often are we part of the "other nine?" How many times have you completely ignored the blessings God has given you. How often do we take them for granted, expect them, assume we deserve them? The other nine got what they wanted. They felt like they deserved to be cleared by the priest. That was owed to them. They had been through so much. They deserved it. So they just kept going. Thinking of themselves and what they deserved. The majority is usually ungrateful. The enemies of thankfulness are greed and entitlement. Stand out. Be different. Be thankful. What would people notice if you were more like the one who turned around?

**APPLY:** *What is this passage calling me to do?*

**Discuss some ways thankfulness cause you to stand out?.**

**What are some things that hinder us from being thankful?**

**PRAY:** Ask God to identify some things that hinder you from being thankful. Pray that you become more aware of the things God has blessed you with.



### Friday: Rise and Go

**PRAY:** Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

**READ: Luke 17:19**

<sup>19</sup> Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

**UNDERSTAND:** *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

5. Begin by underlining nouns with a single line, double underline verbs, and circle descriptive words.
6. Make a list of the key words/phrases and think about what they mean.

#### **Think About It:**

Verses: Two times in this passage Jesus says "go" (see v.11). Both involved some sort of healing. The first one involved a condition. Go and attempt to gain your freedom through the approval of people ("Go, show yourselves to the priests."). All 10 men were healed but were any of them really free? The second use of "Go" was followed not by a condition but by a promise. "Go, your faith has made you well." Faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior is unconditional. It is not dependent on what you can do, how good you act, or what others think of you. It is dependent only on the sacrifice and the work already completed by Jesus. This healing is spiritual. This healing makes you well. Eternally. So which "go" are you following? Are you trying to work harder, be better, or be loved by others? Or are you trusting in Jesus to make you well?

**APPLY:** *What is this passage calling me to do?*

**What are some ways you try to make ourselves well by working harder, trying to be good or by gaining the approval of others?**

**What is the danger in this?**

**Do you truly have faith in Jesus? If so, take a few minutes to write down how your faith makes you well.**

**PRAY:** Ask God to lead and guide you in all you do today.



## **Saturday: Prepare for Sunday**

**REVIEW:** Take a few minutes to make a list of what you've learned this week.

**PRAY:** Ask God to use this time to help you get familiar with Sunday's scripture passage.

### **READ: 2 Corinthians 8:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. <sup>2</sup> In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. <sup>3</sup> For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, (proportionate) and even beyond their ability (sacrificial). Entirely on their own (voluntary), <sup>4</sup> they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. <sup>6</sup> And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. <sup>6</sup> So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. <sup>7</sup> But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech (truth), in knowledge, in complete earnestness (passion) and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving. <sup>8</sup> I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. <sup>9</sup> For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that through his poverty you might become rich.

**THINK:** *Go ahead and underline key words and phrases.*

Start thinking about what this passage is saying.

- What stands out to you in this passage?
- What do you think is the main idea?
- What parts are confusing or hard to understand?
- How might this passage help you to follow Jesus better?

**PRAY:** Ask God to prepare you for tomorrow's worship service.