

'Healing and wholeness' – Young Church Sunday 5th July 2020



"And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean." Mark 1:41

1) Introduction:

Hello to everyone at St Mary's and Christ Church young and youth church, we hope you are all safe and well. The weeks continue and we hope you are finding ways to cope in these unprecedented time. You are all in our thoughts and prayers and we hope you find some joy in these weekly online sessions.

Today's 'social distance' young church is about ... Jesus' healing and wholeness.

We cannot come into God's presence because we are sin-stained and unclean. We have to go to the Priest, who will pronounce us clean (Jesus, the great High Priest). And only then can we come, gratefully, into God's very presence. It is Jesus who makes us clean – white as snow – no longer having to cover up our sin, but living in freedom. Freedom to enjoy the life he has given us.

As a people, we are not given to gratitude. We are learning to expect, to take as our right the things that people give us or do for us, and we complain if things are not up to standard. We criticise where we should thank. And so this story shows us afresh that gratitude is important. We should be grateful to God for the things he gives us.

The story of Jesus healing a leper shows us Jesus' compassion, love, and looks at the ways we can be thankful to God today, grateful to God today. You do not have to be thankful for big things: we often neglect the small things that God provides day in, day out. Sunrises, bird song, flowers, grass, fresh water, the NHS, friends and family. All are gifts from God.

2) Warm up games 'love and compassion' and 'no touching allowed'.

Equipment:

Oranges (or small soft balls)

1) Ask children to talk about a time when they were sick, or when a family member or friend was sick. Ask questions such as, "Who cared that you were hurting? What did they do to help you?"

Today you will learn about Jesus healing a leper (you will find out more in a moment) and how this shows Jesus' love and compassion.

The Point: to introduce the idea of Jesus showing love and compassion.

2) In Jesus' time, lepers were classed as being full of sin and unclean, as a result no one touched them! What if, like people with leprosy, we couldn't touch anyone else? Our lives would be very different, and sometimes quite challenging.

Pair up with someone in the house with an orange (or soft ball). Place the orange between your foreheads and then try to walk to the opposite side of the room without touching each other at all. Try other variations and see what happens (i.e. place orange between partners' shoulders or knees).

The Point: to express the idea of what it might feel like never being able to touch someone. To learn about what leprosy is.

3) Digging in: Jesus heals a leper.

Equipment needed:

-Access to the Internet to play the videos.

1) Introduction to the story.

This story is about a man with leprosy. So what is leprosy?

Leprosy is a disease that is caused by bacteria. People that get leprosy usually live in poor areas, have dirty water, eat food with little nutrition, and are not healthy to begin with.

It looks very bad. It can make a face look bumpy and can completely change the way a person looks. Some people get it on their hands or feet, some may lose their fingers and toes from it.

On top of it all, during the time when Jesus was around, people thought leprosy was caused by people's sins. So, if someone had leprosy, it was because he or she had done something wrong.

For all these reasons the 'lepers', as they were called, were kicked out of the city and had to live on the outside of it. They were not allowed in stores or churches or any public place, so many times they went to live in the dumps where the garbage was,

to find food and other things they needed. No one wanted to see them for fear of touching them and catching the disease or becoming 'unclean' because of their sins.

Now to the story: Jesus was going around at this time healing people and telling stories. Word got around about Jesus, so people would follow Him because they wanted hear what He had to say or to see a miracle.

While Jesus was walking and talking with people, a man with leprosy approached Him, fell to his knees, and put his face to the ground begging, "*Lord if you want to, you can heal me and make me clean.*"

Something amazing happened next. Like it was no big deal, Jesus just reached out and touched the man.

Wait a minute, Jesus reached out and touched a man with leprosy? This was not allowed then and now Jesus would be unclean! Besides this man looked really bad and probably was very sick!

None of this mattered to Jesus, however. He reached out his hand and said to the man, "*I will heal you. Be clean.*" And right in that moment the leprosy left him.

This showed that Jesus was more than just a man. Jesus healed the man of his disease but also cleansed him from his sin without becoming infected Himself.

Jesus then asked the man to do one thing. He asked him not to tell anyone what just happened and to go to the priest to be checked out. This would show that he was cleansed and he would leave an offering. Then the priest would give permission for him to come back and live with the people again.

By going to priest the healed man would send a message that Jesus had a special power from God. The people were waiting for a Messiah (someone that would come and save them) and the priests and Jews believed that only God could cure leprosy. This was supposed to be a sign that the Messiah had come.

Instead, the man was too excited and told everyone he saw what had happened. This made it hard for Jesus to walk around in the cities because large crowds would flock to Him and the Jewish leaders started to go against Jesus because they did not believe that He was sent by God.

Jesus would often go off by Himself and pray but people kept coming to see Him from everywhere.

The point: The message to take from this story is that it doesn't matter to Jesus what you've done, how you look, or what other people think about you. He made you and He loves you no matter what! Every day, Jesus is trying to reach out and show His love to you but sometimes we are too busy to notice: we need to be thankful and grateful.

2) Watch the two video clips that link to Mark 1: 40-45 to delve deeper into the story and to help you visualise.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8RakGtZyz9s>

https://youtu.be/Sdqt_OUXFPg?t=73 (from one minute)

Think about and discuss with an adult:

At the end of the story/video, ask:

- Jesus could have said to the man, “*Be made clean.*” Why do you think Jesus touched the man to heal him?
- I wonder how long it had been since someone had touched the man with leprosy?
- How do you think the man felt when he was away from his family?
- I wonder why Jesus ordered the man not to tell anyone that he had been healed. Do you think the man was quiet about what Jesus did?
- Can you think of other times that Jesus healed someone?
- Have you ever prayed for someone who was sick?
- Has someone ever prayed for you?
- Have people ever acted like you were “untouchable?”

4) Take away: ‘Healing Hands’

Equipment needed:

Paints and a paint brush.

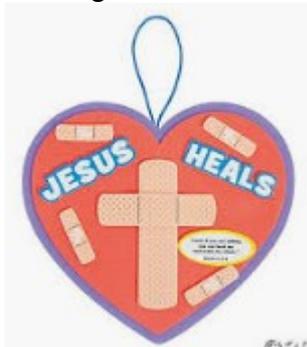
Poster paper.

Plasters.

A4 card.

Felt pens and coloured pencil crayons.

Craft idea 1 – Carefully paint the palm of your hand. Make a hand print on poster paper. Let this dry. Then note words and images that express Jesus’ love for others. Or have a go at creating something like the ideas below using plasters to show healing.



Craft idea 2 – Design and make a get well, or thinking of you card for someone you know to let them know they are not alone and you care. You show your love and compassion for others.

5) Close prayer and St Mary's key reflection questions:

What does this teach us about God/Jesus/Holy Spirit?

What do we need to do (this week)?

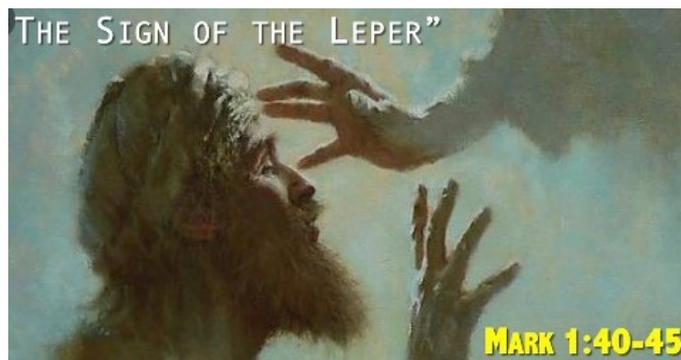


Prayer:

Loving God,
Help us to show love and compassion to others like Jesus.
We pray that You will comfort us in any suffering, lend skill to the hands of our healers, and bless the means used for our cure.
Give us such confidence in the power of Your grace, that even when we might be afraid, we may put our whole trust in You; through our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen

Finish sharing the Bible quote:

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Visit this website for more ideas on how to pray with young children throughout the day

<https://www.diddydisciples.org/tcahprayersthroughtheday>

[Links to other ways to worship:](#)



Diddy Disciples 'church at home' is a creative and playful worship and Bible storytelling on line resource for babies, toddlers and young children. This is a great resource for all our Young Church children, so we thought we would share.

<https://www.diddydisciples.org/thechurchathome>