

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Extraordinary Gratitude

January 21 & 22, 2023

I'd be willing to bet that you hear the story of the ten lepers just as I've always heard it. The bottom-line message you get is that Jesus is angry with you because you really ought to be more grateful to him than you are. That's how I've always read the story. But I think I've been missing the point, and maybe you have too.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: LUKE 17:11-19

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

The story of the Ten Lepers isn't about being chastised for being ungrateful. It isn't about scolding us for being like the nine but begging us to be like the one who understands the intimate connection between the miracles and the miracle worker, the healing and healer, the gift and the gift-giver.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- On a scale of 1-10, how good are you about writing thank-you notes when you receive a gift or other kindness? What are some other ways you express gratitude?
- If applicable, share a story about a time you felt chastised for not being grateful enough (or expressing enough gratitude) for something you were given.
- What is the best gift you have ever received? How did you respond upon receiving it?
- "All ten were healed of their leprosy, but in returning to give thanks, the one came to know not just healing but the Healer." Share a story of healing that you've experienced in your life. Did that experience impact your relationship with God? If so, how?
- "The most powerful spiritual practice I know is the practice of gratitude. Practicing gratitude connects my heart to God, reminding me that God is the giver of all good things. It changes the way I see the world, from scarcity to abundance. It produces joy and stirs me to greater generosity." How does practicing gratitude change/impact you?
- What are some practical ways you can (or do) practice gratitude?

CHALLENGE: Give thanks each and every day because every blessing, every one of our countless blessings, both great and small, is an invitation to celebrate the goodness of the One who gives us faith, hope and love now and forever: Jesus Christ our Lord.