

# CHURCH SCHOOL BIBLE STORY

## - OCTOBER 2022 -

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## Ten Are Healed

Based on Luke 17:11–19

The dust stuck to Jesus' legs as he continued to trudge down the dusty path. He was on his way to Jerusalem, and it had been a long day. He was hot, his body was tired, and his feet hurt. As the sun beat down on him, Jesus drank the last few drops from his waterskin. Good thing there was a village ahead; perhaps he could find more water there and maybe a bit of cheese for the road.

As he entered the village, he saw a group of people coming towards him. As tired and exhausted as Jesus was feeling, it was clear these people felt worse. Their torn clothing revealed open sores all over their bodies, their skin blotchy and covered in scabs. Flies were landing on them, and many could barely walk, their feet swollen and bleeding. They had a horrible disease. People didn't understand it. There was no medicine for it, and it could spread from one person to another quickly, so when someone got sick, they had to leave and live away from anyone healthy. They couldn't even hug their loved ones goodbye. People were afraid to be near them, even look at them, and they were often treated worse than the stray dogs that roamed the streets.

They recognized Jesus but stopped themselves from getting any closer since it was against the rules. They simply cried out to him, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us! Help us!"

Jesus looked down at his own body. As dirty and tired as it was, it was healthy. Jesus felt so much love and so much sadness for these sick men and women. "Go," he said to them. "Show yourselves to the priests." Although confused, they obeyed and turned and walked toward the centre of the town. Within a few steps, they were no longer limping! As they walked, their bodies were healed. They all realized what had happened and looked down at their whole, healthy bodies in amazement. They were so thrilled and amazed they ran off as quickly as they could, some still headed toward the priests, others toward home and the families they had left behind.

One man was skipping and laughing when he suddenly stopped and held very still. He looked down at his hands, his ten perfect fingers, and he turned around. Jesus was still standing there, a warm smile on his face. The man ran back to Jesus and fell at his feet, crying and thanking him. Jesus put his hand on his shoulder and watched as the nine others disappeared in the distance. "Only one of you remembered to say thank you?" he chuckled. Helping the man to his feet, he said, "Get up and go on your way, my friend. Your faith has made you well."

As the man followed the others into the town, shouting about the miracle of his healthy body, Jesus sat down on a rock to rub his tired feet. Before he stood up to continue on his way, he thanked God for his energetic and healthy body.

