

Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

COMMUNITY GROUPS ARE BETTER WHEN MEMBERS COME PREPARED. THIS GUIDE HAS BEEN PROVIDED AS A TOOL FOR THAT.

Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

Message Summary

In Luke 17:11-19, we read the account of Jesus healing 10 lepers. As amazing as that was, the most shocking part of the story is the fact that only one of them actually returned to thank Jesus for the healing! In fact, the one that did return was a hated Samaritan – a despised outsider to the religious culture of that day. What would keep 9 former lepers from returning to Jesus? Entitlement. What caused the one to fall at Jesus' feet? Gratitude. Here are 3 things that happen when we reject entitlement and embrace gratitude:

1. **Gratitude allows the gift to point the giver.** The Big Idea this week sounds harsh, but it's true: entitlement receives the gift but rejects the giver. The only reason the other 9 didn't come back to thank Jesus is because they believed that they deserved the healing more than they believed that they needed the Healer! Even if the gift we receive is a bad gift, seeing the heart of the person giving it to us is all we need to be filled with gratitude. For the 1 leper who returned, the healing was great, but it was just a sign pointing him back to Jesus!
2. **Gratitude fuels a worship that breaks the rules.** The 9 lepers who didn't return weren't bad. In fact, they were probably "good" Jews. They knew that the Law required them to show themselves to the priests to be declared ceremonially clean and so that's what they were going to do. Jesus had even told them to do that, so the fact that they continued showed a willingness to obey. But only the Samaritan was moved by gratitude to the point that he "broke the rules" and so he came back and fell at Jesus' feet in worship – very loud worship! He didn't care what others thought. His healing had brought him to his healer and nothing was going to stop him from an "all in" worship experience!
3. **Gratitude reveals (in)titlement.** Don't miss this: the Jews (the insiders) were entitled while the Samaritan (the outsider) was grateful. It is the reaction of the grateful that reveals the condition of the entitled. The presence of the 1 revealed the absence of the 9. Quite honestly, the longer we follow Jesus, the more vulnerable we are to entitlement. We can begin to feel as if we deserve the blessings because of all we've done for Jesus. We can begin to receive the gift but reject the Giver.

Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- What was one of the greatest gifts you ever received from another person? How did you show your gratitude?
- What are some of the reasons that we aren't always as grateful as we should be? Would you say that you are more like the nine lepers or more like the one? How can we become more like the one?
- What do you think it was like to be a leper? What would healing have meant for them?
- How do you think the nine may have rationalized not going back to Jesus to say thanks?
- What does gratitude toward God look like? How often do you show it?
- Read Psalm 105:1 and take some time to do what the one leper did: give thanks to the Lord by proclaiming to each other the great things He has done for you!
- What are some ways that you can cultivate gratitude in your daily life? Who do you need to express gratitude toward? How will you do that?