

# **Weekly Theme**

**W/C 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

thank  
you!

**“Saying Thank you**

**Luke 17: 11-19**

Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. He travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men met him. They had a skin disease called leprosy. They were standing close by. And they called out in a loud voice, "Jesus! Master! Have pity on us!"

Jesus saw them and said, "Go. Show yourselves to the priests." While they were on the way, they were healed.

When one of them saw that he was healed, he came back. He praised God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan.

Jesus asked, "Weren't all ten healed? Where are the other nine? Didn't anyone else return and give praise to God except this outsider?"

Then Jesus said to him, "Get up and go. Your faith has healed you."

"I know what I want and I want it now" sums up the attitude of many people today, and Christians are no exception. However as Christians we are supposed to be God's "Thank you people". The Most important prayer in our faith is called the "Eucharist" which means, the "Thanksgiving". To live a truly Christian life we should be full of Joy and Thanksgiving to God for all the good things he gives us each and every day.

So why didn't all ten return to the Lord to give thanks to God? Why was it that nine never bothered? Perhaps some of them were angry. Angry that they had become so sick in the first place. Maybe they were so angry that they couldn't see their healing as a gift. They could only see their sickness as a curse. Maybe they were upset that they had missed so much in life. They were people who saw the glass as half empty, not half full. Or, maybe some of them were completely self-absorbed. Perhaps some were like little children who were never taught to say, "Thank you," as though they had a right to all good things in the world.

One of those former lepers, a Samaritan, returned to Jesus. He was out of the mainstream, not even Jewish. He wasn't part of the chosen people. But he knew that God had chosen him. He knew that he received a grace from God. He knew that he didn't do anything to deserve this gift, but was the recipient of God's compassion. He wanted others to rejoice with Him. He wanted Jesus to know how grateful he was. He returned to thank Jesus.

This is all God wants from us. He wants us to show our gratitude by being good to others as he has been good to us. You see, thanking God is not a matter of words or recited prayers. To thank God we have to treat others as he treated us, with compassion, mercy and love.

Where do we go when we realise that we have experienced God's love in our lives? Do we stay where we are? Do we walk backwards to where we were out of anger for our past? Or do we spread the Grace that we have received to others by our care and compassion? Are we one of the nine? Or are we the one out of the ten, the one who returned glorifying God with His life?

## **Prayer**

Father, the hand of your loving kindness powerfully but gently guides all the moments of our day.

Give us the gift of the same loving kindness that we may treat everyone with love and respect today and every day.

Amen

Form Tutor

The aim of this week's theme:

This week would like our students to explore the concept of saying "Thank you". Am I a person who just takes all the time and expects more? Or am I really grateful for the gifts that have been given to me in my life by God? I am I a person that always thankful for what I have?

## **Day One**

**Tutor:**

*Read Scripture*

**Student Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, help me today to realise the many gifts in my life for which I have to be thankful to you.

Amen

St John Plessington  
Pray for us

**Day 2**

Think about: The society in which we live.

**Tutor:**

In our society today, there seem to be a culture of simply looking after "Number one". If I am alright then that's great.

But what responsibilities do we have and should we have, for those who are less fortunate than we are?

**Student prayer**

Lord help us to realise today that in our society, we have to be the voice that speaks up for those whose voice is unheard.

Amen

St John Plessington

Pray for us

**Day 3**

Think about: The world in which we live.

**Tutor:**

Sometimes we think that the world is an awful place to live in. But today let's stop for a moment to remember the many gifts that we have received from God that make this world a wonderful place to live in. Make a list of those good things. And don't forget to say thank you to God for them!

**Student prayer**

Loving Father, ours is a simple prayer today. Thank you!

Amen

St John Plessington

Pray for us

**Day Four**

Think about our college community

**Tutor**

Today is another day for making lists. Let's think about all the opportunities we have been blessed with as a member of the SJP family.

**Student Prayer**

Lord, thank you for each member of this college family.

St John Plessington

Pray for us

**Day Five**

Think about our families

## **Tutor**

When was the last time we said "Thank You" at home? Perhaps today we should make our final list of the week. Just think about the many good things you have in life by being a member of your family.

Promise yourself today, that when you go home you will say the words "Thank you" at least one time tonight.

## **Student Prayer**

Lord, today we thank you for the gift of our family.  
Amen

St John Plessington  
Pray for us

## **Other prayers you may like to use this week**

For all You have given,  
Thank You God.

For all You have withheld,  
Thank You God.

For all You have withdrawn,  
Thank You God.

For all You have permitted,  
Thank You God.

For all You have prevented,  
Thank You God.

For all You have forgiven me,  
Thank You God.

For all You have prepared for me,  
Thank You God.

For the death You have chosen for me,

Thank you God.

For the place you are keeping for me in heaven,  
Thank You God.

For having created me to love You for eternity,  
Thank You God.

Lord our God, I thank for everything. I thank you for creating me in the ability to do things and to work especially the kind that reflects your name and image.

Amen

Blessed are You, loving Father, for all Your gifts to us.  
Blessed are You for giving us family and friends to be with us in times of joy and sorrow, to help us in days of need, and to rejoice with us in moments of celebration.

Father, we praise You for Your Son Jesus, who knew the happiness of family and friends, and in the love of Your Holy Spirit.

Blessed are You for ever and ever.

Amen.

Eternal God and Father,  
by whose power we are created and by whose love we are redeemed:  
guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,  
that we may give ourselves to your service,  
and live this day in love to one another and to you;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face shine on you,  
and be gracious to you;  
the Lord turn his face towards you  
and give you peace;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.



