

Jesus is Your Only Hope!

Bible Lesson: Jesus Offers Hope to a Samaritan Leper – Luke 17:11—19; Leviticus 13:45-46; 14:1-2

Main Teaching: Jesus is Your Only Hope

Word Up: Thank God – Jesus gives hope!

Supplies:

- Word Up Booklet – Word Up (Resource Pack)
- Paper and marker for each child – Small Group
- Recording for “Let’s Get Started” and “Nothing Can Separate” - Worship (Sing About the King 3 CD)
- Optional Song Visual for “Let’s Get Started” – Worship (cefpress.com)
- 2 sponges, 2 clear bowls, water, red and blue food coloring
- Flashcards for Bible Story “Jesus Offers Hope to a Samaritan Leper” – Bible Lesson
- Nine chairs OR Whiteboard OR Posterboard OR Tape and Beanbags–

Schedule at a Glance (75 min club):

- 15 min – Small Group
- 10 min – Worship
- 10 min – Object Lesson
- 15 min – Bible Lesson
- 15 min – Review Game
- 10 min – Small Group



SMALL GROUP

Say Memory Verse

Have kids say their memory verse from last week to their small group leader

Thank You Brainstorming

Did any of you have a chance to “Exercise your Thank You Muscle” this week? When you start looking for things to be thankful for, you will start to see more and more things. Let’s make a list of things we are thankful for. (Write each one on a different piece of paper to save for closing small group time.) Have you ever had something happen that you didn’t like, but then later it turned out good and you were thankful?

WORSHIP

“Let’s Get Started”

“Nothing Can Separate



WORD UP!

“Thank God – Jesus gives hope!”

Hope is when you believe that something good is going to happen. We know that Jesus died on the cross and came alive again to give us hope! When we trust in Jesus, we know we won’t have to be separated from God in a hopeless world of sin. We have hope in a wonderful relationship with Jesus that starts right now and continues on forever and ever. Let’s all say our Word Up together – *“Thank God – Jesus gives hope!”*

OBJECT LESSON**Taking in God's Word Sponge**

2 sponges

2 clear bowls

Water with red food coloring

Water with blue food coloring

If I dip this sponge into the red water, it soaks up some of the water. Then when I squeeze it, red water comes out. (Do this.) If I dip this sponge into the blue water, it soaks up the blue water and blue water comes out when I squeeze it. (Do this.)

Now let's pretend this blue water is media. It might be watching tv, scrolling on facebook, or looking at Instagram posts. We can fill our minds with media messages – it can try to tell us what is going on in the world, what we should look like and act like, even what we should believe. (Drop sponge into the blue water.) Anytime we are taking in media, we are soaking up those messages. We begin to believe all those messages, whether they are true or not. Then when a hard situation comes up, we start to feel squeezed. Maybe a friend at school didn't want to play with you at recess. You start to feel bad. You look for hope and you remember everything that you have taken in. (Start to squeeze the sponge.) You remember the beautiful pictures others have posted using filters, and start to think "Maybe I need to be prettier." Or you remember a movie you watched where there were a bunch of girls being mean to each other and you are tempted to try being mean back to your friend. When hard times comes and you are squeezed, what you are filled up with is what will come out.

Let's consider a different possibility. This red water right here is God's truth. (Drop sponge in red water.) You find out about God's truth by reading the Bible, coming to GNC or going to church, or listening to worship music. God's truth says you are fearfully and wonderfully made. You are special and God has a special plan for you. It says God forgives your sins and gives you His power to do hard things. It says to love others, even when they are hard to love. When we are focusing on God, we are soaking up those messages! The same hard situation comes – your friend at school didn't want to play with you at recess. You start to feel bad. You look for hope and you remember everything you have taken in. (Start to squeeze the sponge.) You remember what God says about you – He loves you, you are special to Him. He wants you to love others and be kind to people that are hard to love. You make the choice not to get mad at your friend, and know it is ok if they want to have other friends too, or don't always want to do the same activities you do. Then you ask God to help you be a good friend. You notice one person in your class is sitting alone, so you go over and talk to them. Surprisingly, you find out you have a lot in common and they are really funny. God's love flows out of you and is shared with your new friend.

What you take in during the easy times is what is going to be squeezed out during the hard times. Be sure you are filling yourself with the hope of Jesus.



BIBLE LESSON

Have you ever felt left out? Perhaps you weren't chosen to be on a team during a game because you're not a fast runner. Maybe you are not able to eat cake at a friend's birthday party because you have food allergies. Perhaps no one plays with you and you feel lonely. It hurts to be left out, doesn't it? Can you imagine what it would feel like to be left out of everything? There was a man we read about in the Bible who may have felt that way.

PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

Flashcard 4-1

This man lived in an area of Israel called Samaria. We talked about Samaria last time. Does anyone remember what the people who lived there were called? (Allow response.) The people from Samaria are called Samaritans. Each time I say "Samaritan," hold out your hands like you are trying to keep someone away from you. (Practice with children.) The Jews treated the Samaritans this way. They had been enemies for hundreds of years. Jews would even take the long way around Samaria to avoid the Samaritans. They thought God didn't care about the Samaritans. Many Jews thought they were the only ones God had a plan for. The Jews were the people God chose to reveal Himself to before Jesus came to Earth as a man. But instead of following God's way, they chose to go their own way. God didn't want the Jews to hate other people, but the Jews didn't understand how powerful God's love is. Anyone who wasn't a Jew was usually treated badly— especially Samaritans. Life as a Samaritan was not easy but then it got even worse for this man.

Parts of his skin began to look strange. He had a horrible skin disease. He wanted to get rid of it! What do you think he did? (Allow response.) Perhaps he washed it and scrubbed it with soap. He probably tried bandaging it and putting medicine on it. Maybe he went to a doctor for help. Can you pretend to do these things? (Do with children.)

Flashcard 4-2

He hoped it would get better but it didn't. It only got worse! He had a disease called leprosy. Having leprosy meant he would be left out of everything because others could get the disease from him! The law said people with leprosy could not live with other people. They had to leave their homes and families. They were outcasts! Whenever other people came near, they had to shout, "Unclean! Unclean!" This would warn others to stay away. Shout, "Unclean!" with me. (Say with children.)

There was no cure for leprosy. Many people who had the disease never got better— it just got worse and worse until they died. The Samaritan man must have felt hopeless. He couldn't do anything to save himself from this horrible problem.



Did you know you also have a horrible problem you can't get rid of on your own? It's not a sickness or a disease. It is much worse. It's a problem all people are born with. God calls it sin. Sin is going against God. Hurting other people, cheating in school, and saying mean things to others are just a few ways we go against God. Sin is your worst problem because it causes separation from God now and forever in a terrible place of punishment. (Read Isaiah 59:2a.) God warns you that your sin will separate you from His friendship forever. You can't do anything to take care of your sin problem on your own. That sounds pretty hopeless. What a terrible problem!

The Samaritan man was also born with this terrible problem of sin and now he had leprosy too. How sad and hopeless he must have felt. Then the Samaritan man heard about Jesus and His great power.

Flashcard 4-3

One day Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem and passed by Samaria. Who do you think Jesus met? (Allow response.) Listen to what the Bible says. (Read Luke 17:12.) Jesus met ten people with leprosy. People with leprosy sometimes lived together in groups to keep each other company and help each other. The Samaritan was one of these ten men. Would Jesus care about this Samaritan man? Yes, Jesus did care!



Jesus cares for you too. He is God, the Creator of all people and He loves all of them. Different skin colors, languages, and countries were all God's idea. He made each of you with different favorite foods and different abilities. God is so creative! We are all one of a kind—there is no one who is just like you. Even identical twins have many differences, including different fingerprints. No matter what you look like, where you are from, or what you have done, God loves you! He is perfect, and His love for you and for all people is perfect. Let's see what the Bible says about God's love. (Read Psalm 107:1.) God's love is forever! His love is so big and so powerful we can't completely understand it. He cares about all people, including you.

Word Up!

Say with me, **"Thank God – Jesus gives hope!"**

God also cared about the Samaritan man and the men who were with him. Because of their leprosy, the men stayed away from Jesus. But they began to shout to Him, (read Luke 17:13b). They begged Jesus for mercy. Can you shout, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" and wave your arms? (Do with children.)

Flashcard 4-4

Jesus looked at the lepers and told them to go show themselves to the priests. This is what they were supposed to do if they thought their leprosy was gone. The priest would make sure they were really healed. Jesus was offering a way for all of them, even the Samaritan, to be healed! He was their only hope!



Jesus is also your only hope. He is the only one who could do what God said had to be done to pay for sin. Jesus is the perfect Son of God but He willingly took the punishment you deserve. Evil men took Jesus away and beat Him. He was bruised and whipped even though He had done nothing wrong. (Read Isaiah 53:5a.) Jesus was nailed to a cross, where He bled and died. He chose to suffer and die for you. Then He came back to life to prove He has the power to save you from sin and give you eternal life with God. Hundreds of people saw Jesus after He came back to life. Then after 40 days He went back to Heaven. Today He is in Heaven being honored as King over all! Because of what He did, you don't have to face the punishment for sin. Jesus has power to save you from sin. You don't have to feel hopeless about your sin. Because Jesus rose from the dead, you can have hope.

The people with leprosy didn't have to feel hopeless either. Jesus was there! He didn't ignore them or run away from them like other people would have. He told them to go show themselves to the priests. As they went, they were all healed! Let's all stand up and run in place, pretending to hurry to the priests! Shout with me, "I'm healed!" (Do with children.) But when the Samaritan man realized he had been healed, he did something different than the other nine men.

Flashcard 4-5

Instead of continuing to the priests, the Samaritan turned around and went back to Jesus. He went back loudly praising God. God changed him completely and gave him hope. He returned to Jesus and thanked Him for what He had done!



Have you thanked God for what He's done for you? If you have already trusted Jesus to save you from sin, **thank God for what He has done for you.** He saved you from sin, changed you on the inside, and gave you hope! That's the best thing anyone could ever do for you. And He keeps doing things to show He cares for you. You are now His child and you can talk to Him each day. You can know He will hear and answer you. He will never stop loving you! I'm going to read several Bible verses that have the words give thanks. This is sign language for thank you. (Show children sign— touch your chin with fingers of your right hand then bring your hand down and out.) Every time you hear thanks, make the sign for thank you. (Read Psalm 136:1-3 while children sign "Thank you.") Take time every day to thank God for His great love that never fails. God has saved you from sin and given you hope.

Word Up!

Say with me, **"Thank God—Jesus gives hope!"** (Say with children.) You can **thank God for what He's done for you.**

Flashcard 4-6

The Samaritan thanked Jesus for what He had done for him. He was the only one of the men who were healed who came back. Hold up fingers to show me how many people Jesus had just healed. (Allow response.) He healed ten. Jesus said, (read Luke 17:17-18). Only the Samaritan returned to thank Jesus. He knew he had done nothing to save himself from leprosy—Jesus did it all! This man had been an outcast, but Jesus gave him hope no one else could give. The Samaritan praised God and fell on his face at Jesus' feet, thanking Him.

Jesus said to the man, (read Luke 17:19). Faith is when you believe something so strongly you do something about it. The Samaritan had faith that Jesus could heal him. He must have also had faith that Jesus could save him from his sin, because Jesus told him his faith had made him whole!

CLIMAX

Jesus showed His power and love by first healing the man's leprosy then saving him from the hopelessness of sin. Jesus was showing people that God offers love and hope to everyone!

CONCLUSION

After this miracle, Jesus continued on His way to Jerusalem where He knew He would be killed to make a way for all people to be saved from their sin.

INVITATION

Jesus made the way for you to be saved from the hopelessness of sin. He did this by dying on the cross and rising again. The Bible says, (read Romans 10:13). Whosoever includes you! You can be saved. To be saved means you will not have to be in the hopelessness of your sin. You will no longer be separated from God but instead receive new life with God that lasts forever. To call on the name of the Lord means you are willing to believe Jesus completely took your punishment for sin. Please close your eyes and bow your head while I ask you an important question. Will you call on Jesus as your Savior today? If you want to talk with someone about being saved from sin, show me by raising your hand. (Acknowledge responses.) You may put your hands down and open your eyes. If you raised your hand, you may meet me (designate time and location) and I will show you more from the Bible about what it means to be saved from sin.

**REVIEW GAME****Tic-Tac-Toe**

Create a tic-tac-toe grid with nine chairs. Divide the children into two teams. Ask questions alternating between the teams. When a child answers correctly, he sits in one of the chairs forming the tic-tac-toe grid. The first team to get three children in a row wins.

Variations:

Draw a tic-tac-toe grid on a whiteboard or poster board. Divide the children into two teams – the Xs and the Os. Have the child who answers the question draw his team's symbol on the board.

Have the person who answers correctly throw a beanbag onto a tic-tac-toe grid placed on the floor. He may place his team's symbol wherever the beanbag lands.

Review Questions:

1. How did the Jews feel about the Samaritans? *(They thought God didn't care about them; they avoided them.)*
2. What was something a person with leprosy had to do? *(Leave his home; shout "Unclean!")*
3. What is sin? *(Going against God.)*
4. Who made you? *(God)*
5. What are some ways God made you different from others? *(Different skin colors; fingerprints; favorite foods; abilities etc.)*
6. How many people with leprosy did Jesus heal that day? *(10)*
7. Why is Jesus your only hope? *(Jesus is the only one who could pay for my sin; He is the perfect Son of God.)*
8. How many of the ten men came back to thank Jesus? *(One)*
9. Where is Jesus now? *(In Heaven)*
10. What is something you can thank God for today? *(Answers will vary)*
11. What does it mean to call on the name of the Lord? *(To believe that Jesus completely took my punishment for sin.)*
12. According to our memory verse, what can separate you from God's love? *(Nothing)*

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Thank you prayers

Prayer is just talking to God. We can talk to God anytime, anywhere about anything. At the beginning of class we made a list of things we were thankful for. Let's talk to God and thank Him for those things. You can start by saying "Dear God, thank you for" and then add what you are thankful for. Pass out the papers and have kids pray out loud for the things on the papers.

DISMISSAL

Hand out a Quiet Time Sheet – Thank God – Jesus Gives Hope! (Week 4 in the Resource Pack) to each child.