

## EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

# THANK YOU CARDS

### EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

#### *Reflecting on the Gospel*

##### *Ten lepers (Luke 17: 11-19)*

In Luke's Gospel, as Jesus' journey progresses toward Jerusalem (and toward his betrayal and death) he passes through Samaria. Samaria is foreign territory. There he is met by ten lepers. Lepers are treated as unclean, as social outcasts. All ten lepers were healed, but just one returned to thank Jesus. The one who returned was a Samaritan. Jesus' reply to the Samaritan 'Your faith has made you well' can mean more than simply healed from leprosy. The Greek could also be translated 'Your faith has saved you'. In Luke's Gospel, bringing healing as salvation to the Samaritan prefigures opening the Kingdom to foreigners and to Gentiles.

Our image to stimulate reflection on this passage is *thank you cards*.

#### *Extracts from the Gospel passage (Luke 17: 12-16)*

As Jesus entered a village,  
ten lepers approached him.  
Keeping their distance,  
they called out, saying,  
'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!'  
When he saw them, he said to them,  
'Go and show yourselves to the priests.'  
And as they went, they were made clean.  
Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed,  
turned back, praising God with a loud voice.  
He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him.

#### *Gospel prayer*

Thank you Lord Jesus,  
for all that we are.  
Thank you Lord Jesus,  
for all that we have.  
Thank you Lord Jesus,  
for all that we are called to become.  
Thank you Lord Jesus.  
Amen.

## **ENGAGING WITH THE THEME AT HOME**

### ***Reflecting and meditating***

Reflect on Luke's teaching about the importance of coming back to say thank you in Luke 17: 11-19:

- what details in the passage catch your attention?
- what big ideas does the passage spark in your mind?
- what most touches your heart in the passage?
- what most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage?

### ***Thinking and talking***

- why is Luke keen to emphasise that Jesus is travelling through Samaria and Galilee?
- why are the lepers keeping their distance?
- what do you make of just one of the lepers returning to give thanks?
- how do you read Jesus' response 'Your faith has made you well'?
- what can we make of this teaching for today?

### ***Using your Bible***

This narrative about the ten lepers is only related by Luke and contains themes that are repeated elsewhere in Luke's Gospel. Explore how these themes are developed in:

- Luke 7: 40-49
- Luke 10: 30-37

Explore passages in the Old Testament concerning giving thanks:

- Psalm 95: 1-17
- Psalm 100: 1-4
- Psalm 136: 1-9

### ***Exploring online***

- explore interpretations of the leper who returned to give thanks
- explore the song 'Only one came back'
- explore making thank you cards

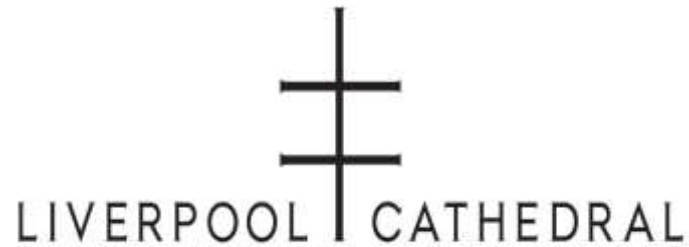
### ***Drawing on experience***

- reflect on your experience of people saying 'thank you' to you
- reflect on occasions when you have returned to say 'thank you'
- reflect on how some people live a life of gratitude

## HARVEST FESTIVAL (YEAR A) SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2020

### *Creating and making*

- make a 'thank you' card drawing on harvest themes
- make a collage of foods from across the world 'Thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all his love'
- collect pictures of harvest scenes: We thank God for seed time and for harvest
- create a reflection, poem, or prayer on giving thanks and gratitude



## **EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME**

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to [Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk](mailto:Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk)

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales and the St Christopher's College Trust.



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