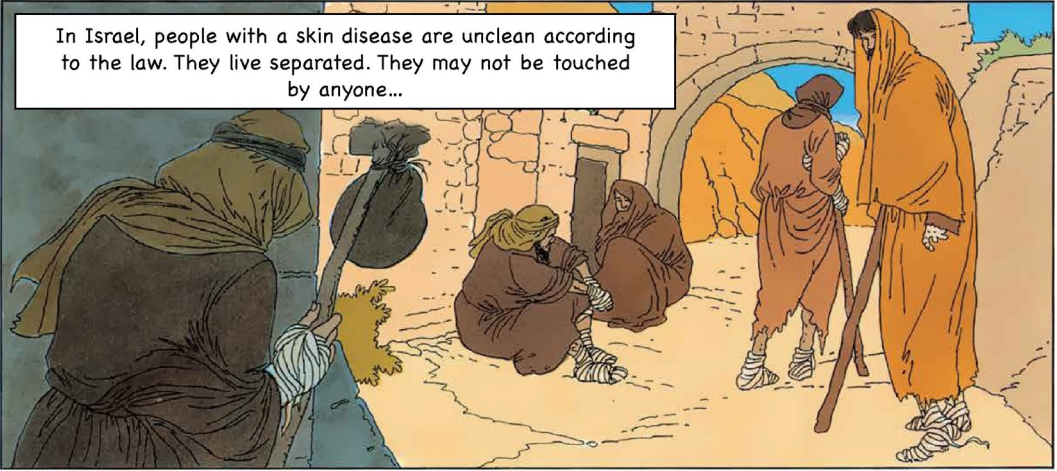


BE THANKFUL!

READ FOR YOURSELF: Luke 17:11-19

In Israel, people with a skin disease are unclean according to the law. They live separated. They may not be touched by anyone...



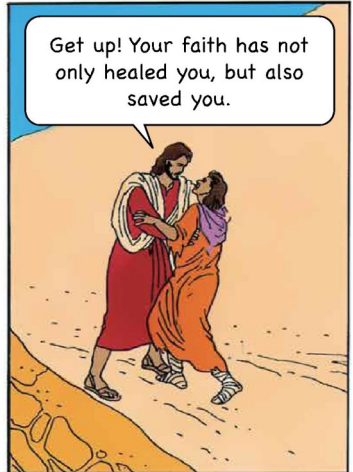
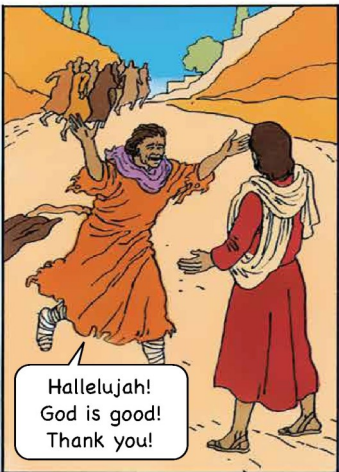
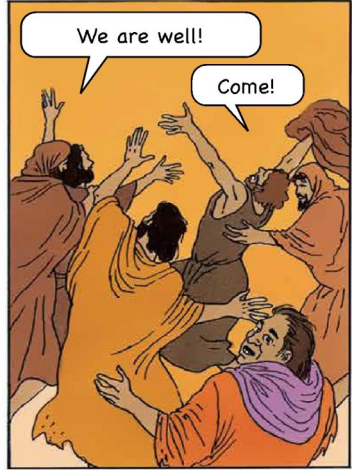
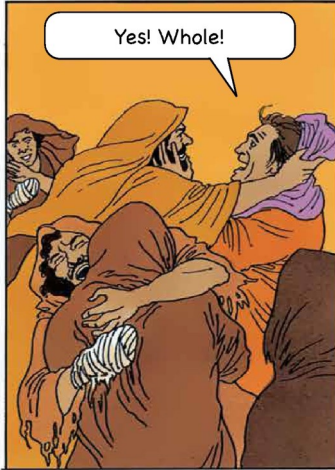
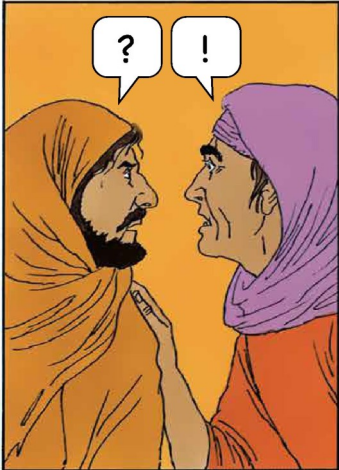
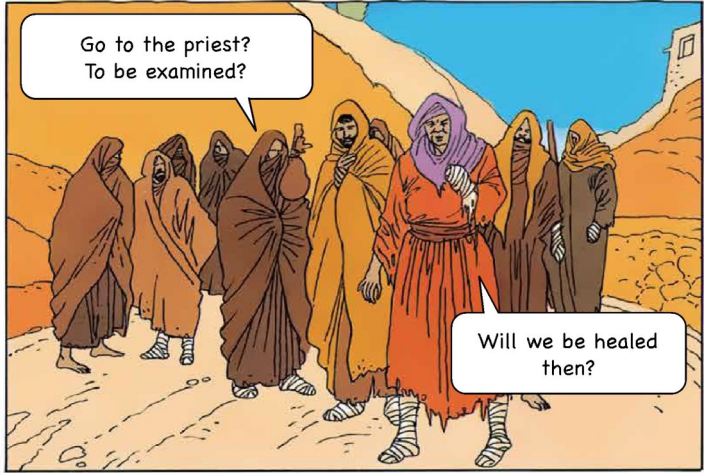
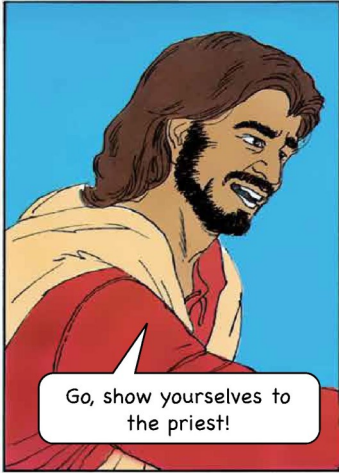
The sick must shout to warn they are coming...

Unclean!
Unclean!



Jesus! Master! Have mercy on us.





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BE THANKFUL!

The Lord Jesus travels to Jerusalem. On the way He meets people who have leprosy (leprosy is a skin disease). They live by themselves, because it is forbidden for them to be in contact with healthy people: because of the danger of catching the disease.

If healthy people should happen to come near them, the sick are obligated to give a warning. They call out: "Lepers! Lepers!" Or they rattle an instrument, making a lot of noise.

But Jesus does not walk around them to keep His distance. That is why they dare to speak to Him. They have heard of the miracles that Jesus performs... What a miracle it is when He does heal them too! They hurry to the priest. Because the priest can arrange that they can participate again in normal life. Surely that is the most important thing to do, now that they are well again? No, that is not the most important. More important is Jesus Himself. It is more important to thank Him!

TIP

Use your ten fingers to thank the Lord Jesus. Don't stop giving thanks until you have named ten things for which you can be thankful. Giving thanks ten times is never too many.

MEMORY VERSE

*"In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, always give thanks for everything to God the Father."
(Ephesians 5:20)*

WHO IS JESUS?

Saviour

*"It was Jesus, a descendant of David, whom God made the Saviour of the people of Israel, as He had promised."
(Acts 13:23)*

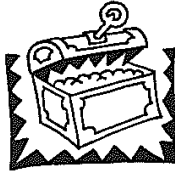
The Lord Jesus receives the title Saviour right at his birth:

*"This very day in David's town your Saviour was born—Christ the Lord!"
(Luke 2:11).*

Saviour is another word for 'one who blesses', 'redeemer' or 'one who rescues'.

It means: The one who brings wholeness (happiness).

It is a name that invites us to be thankful!



THANK JESUS!

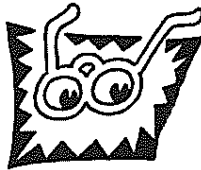
Do you regularly talk with Jesus? You can ask Him anything. You can also tell Him about the things that make you happy. Give Him thank for that! If you experience something nice, after a while you may forget. But if you live close to Jesus, thankfulness keeps bubbling up within you. That is being truly happy.

Thank the Lord Jesus every day. You will feel warm and happy inside when you give thanks! That is because by giving thanks you make the Lord Jesus happy. And in that way also His Spirit, who lives within you.

OLD TREASURES

In the Old Testament it also happens a few times that God heals people from leprosy. It happens, for example, with Moses (Exodus 4:6-7) and his sister Miriam (Numbers 12:10-14). It also happens with Naaman, a Syrian general: He follows the advice of his housekeeping servant girl, he goes in search of the God of Israel, in the hope that He will heal Him.

"So Naaman went down to the Jordan, dipped Himself in it seven times, as Elisha had instructed, and he was completely cured. His flesh became firm and healthy, like that of a child. (2 Kings 5:14)



EXTRA INFORMATION

Leprosy

Leprosy is an incurable disease. First it affects the skin. White patches form all over the body. But later the illness goes deeper. Fingers and toes rot away, the nose, the ears. All feeling disappears from the body. After a while comes death.

The priest has to judge whether a person is incurably sick or not. If it is the case, the sick person has to live separated from the community, outside the town or village. Nobody is allowed to come in contact with him or her, because a leper is unclean. Lepers often live together as a group, in order to have some support from each other.

The Lord Jesus has healed people of leprosy at different times. Then they were not anymore excluded by the Law, but they were again fully welcome in the community, thanks to God's grace!

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DO YOU KNOW...?

1. Leprosy is:
 - a) an incurable disease
 - b) a punishment
 - c) rough skin
2. Why are lepers made to live separated from healthy people?

3. Name three people from the Old Testament who are healed from leprosy.

4. The man who comes back all by himself to thank Jesus is a foreigner. Where is he from (Luke 17:16)?

5. Do you know what Luke's profession was, the man who wrote the story of the ten lepers (look up Colossians 4:14)?

6. There are several words that are similar to Saviour. Which of the following words does not belong in the list?

Redeemer - Priest - One who blesses - One who rescues

7. How often does Paul think you should thank God (Ephesians 5:20)?

BIBLE READING

Sun	Luke 17:11-19
Mon	Luke 5:12-16
Tue	2 Kings 5:1-19
Wed	Leviticus 13:45-46, 14:1-4
	Mathew 3:13-17
Thu	Acts 13:23-26
Fri	Ephesians 5:10-21
Sat	Colossians 2:6-7



ACTION POINT!

Thankfulness is something you can practice. Give thanks in the morning to the Lord Jesus for good things for the new day.

List the good things in the evening that have happened during the day and thank the Lord Jesus for those too.

Of course you can also talk with Him about the things that were hard. But never forget to give thanks. Jesus is so good to you. There is no one who loves you more!