

## WEEK THREE

Supplies:

- Bible
- Sacred Candle & Matches/Lighter
- Two Pieces of Notebook Paper
- Crayons, Markers, Pencils

## WELCOMING GOD:

Gather together, and welcome God into this time and space through the lighting of a candle. Take this moment to pause briefly and sit quietly in this light for a few moments allowing time for everyone to relax their body, mind, and spirit for this time. In these moments, the invitation is to become aware of God's presence with and amongst you as a family.

## SHARING WITH GOD AND ONE ANOTHER:

Say: "If anything is on our minds that makes it difficult for us to focus, let's share it now and then let it go."

- Whoever leads this portion might share what is on his or her mind to model this. Give time for each person to respond. When everyone has responded that would like to, invite everyone to place their hands out and lift them up as we give these distractions to God.

OR you can invite the family to pray together as one person leads, saying the following:

"Dear Loving God, The One who knows our hearts, celebrates our victories, grieves with us during our losses, and gives us the strength to overcome our challenges. Please help us to let go of the distractions we name now, so that we can openly share with our family and may encounter you in a special way today. Our distractions are... (let there be silence here, so everyone has an opportunity to name aloud what is distracting them).

In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen."

## ENCOUNTERING GOD:

Read aloud: Luke 17:11-19

- Take turns reading the Scripture or have a different family member read the Scripture each week.

“On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he 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. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, ‘Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?’ Then he said to him, ‘Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.’”

## ENCOUNTERING EACH OTHER:

Say: This week’s scripture teaches us that it is easy to forget to say “thank you!” Sometimes, we get so caught up in the gift, and how awesome it is, that we forget to tell others thanks for the gifts they share with us. Jesus also reminds us that saying “thank you” is important. Gratitude—taking time to say “thanks”—takes our eyes off the gift for a moment and puts them onto the giver. Taking time to say “thanks” reminds us that the gift isn’t good just because it’s something cool that we wanted. It’s good because someone else thought of us—with love—and shared it with us. The lepers were given the gift of being made clean, but the one the Bible says is made “well” is the one who takes time for thanksgiving—because he knew that he wasn’t just clean. He was only clean because Jesus had mercy on him, loved him and took the time to make him clean. It was about more than the gift. Acknowledging that made him well.

### Discussion Questions:

- What gifts have you been given lately? (Anything from a piece of gum to a new toy counts!)
- Who can you say “thank you” to this week?
- How do you think Jesus felt when he realized that nine of the lepers forgot to say thanks?
- How do you think He felt when the one came back to say “thanks”?
- How do you feel when someone says “thank you”?

Activity: Think about the people you will be with on Thanksgiving this year. Take a pen/pencil and a piece of paper, and list their names. Then, take a moment to write down one thing about each person that you are thankful for. (EX: I [Pastor Kristin] am thankful for my daughter Catherine’s contagious giggles. She laughs so hard and for so long that we can’t help but join her!)

When everyone has finished writing down what you are thankful for about each person who will join you at Thanksgiving, go around the family circle and share them with one another. For an extra challenge, when you are with your friends and family at Thanksgiving, go up to each person and tell them what you wrote down. Say “thanks!”

## ENCOUNTERING GOD TOGETHER:

Say: “May we pray together as a family...

Let us share our prayers for the world: for our country and leaders, for other countries and their leaders...

Let us share our prayers for the church, ministers, and spiritual leaders...

Let us share our prayers for our teachers, first responders, friends, and others in the community...

Let us share our prayers for our family and our own specific needs...”

If you would like to record the people for whom you pray, use the next few lines to do so:

---

---

## ENCOUNTERING TRANSFORMATION TOGETHER:

Pray aloud together:

God, we welcomed you here and read Your Word,  
we prayed and we spent time with you,  
we rested in your love for us,  
and we did this all together.

Now, we promise to love one another and others as you love us.  
In the name of Christ. Amen.

## BLESSING ONE ANOTHER FOR OUR ENCOUNTERS WITH THE WORLD:

Invite family members to bless one another using any of the examples below or their own blessings.

Examples:

- “I love you. God loves you. I pray God blesses you.”
- “God loves you exactly like you are—and so do I.”
- “I love the gifts God has given you and how you bless the world with them.”