



Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley



Village Meeting Week of:
November 12, 2018

Sermon Date:
November 11, 2018

CURRICULUM
GUIDE

Notes for Facilitators:

Please begin and end each Village Discussion with prayer. The curriculum guide contains a brief synopsis of the sermon for the week. As well, below are discussion questions and activities that you may use for your Village weekly meeting. This guide is meant to be a resource for the discussion. You may choose to use questions or activities, or a combination of both. While you have flexibility to choose the questions and activities that most resonate with your group, please always keep in mind the aim for the discussion: to lead Village participants into deeper relationship with the Lord through discussion of the sermon, and to provide for deep connection among members of the group. Anticipated time of meeting is 60-75 minutes.





Sermon Summary

In this sermon, Pastor Wesley explores the relationship between our praise and gratitude after being blessed by God. Referencing the cleansing of the ten lepers, Pastor Wesley challenges us to consider the reasons we have to be grateful and the importance of expressing our gratitude through praise. This sermon teaches us that when we are truly grateful, praise is inevitable.

Key Points

Reasons we have to be grateful:

1. God blessed us when God did not have to.
2. God stepped in before things got worse.
3. We have gotten as far as we have because of God's Hand on our lives.

When we are grateful:

4. We praise God with a loud voice
 - a. Praise is not a thought. It is not a meditation. Praise is spoken.
 - b. If we can yell out for help; we can yell Hallelujah. If we can cry out in prayer; we can cry out in praise.
5. We thank God and thank Jesus. We thank God and we thank the one God used.
6. We should bless God wherever God blesses us.

Getting To Know You Questions:

1. Pastor opened his sermon with the question, "What is your pet peeve?" How would you answer that question?
2. What are your favorite ways to praise God when you are alone?

Into The Bible Questions:

1. What does the Bible say about praise? Find 5-10 passages of scripture that give instructions about how to praise. How may you incorporate this instruction into your prayer and worship?
2. We see of the ten lepers, only the Samaritan came back and thanked Jesus. Pastor suggests that the Galileans felt entitled to their healing. Take a look at the following passages: Luke 10:25-37 and John 4:1-42. What is it about being a "Samaritan" that might make one more open to a relationship with Jesus?
3. In Luke 17:19, Jesus tells the Samaritan leper, "Your faith has made you well." What do you think was the Samaritan's act of faith?

Life Application Questions:

- 1) Pastor Wesley suggested that the lepers from Galilee may have been thinking they were entitled to healing; and therefore, didn't feel led to thank Jesus. In what ways do Christians today exhibit an entitlement mindset? In what ways do we attribute success and blessing to our own efforts?
- 2) When you think about your relationship with the Lord right now, how would you describe the intensity and regularity of your praise? What are the people, places, and things that most inspire your spontaneous praise? What tends to subdue your praise?
- 3) Of all the ways you've experienced God's provision, what blessings are most precious to you? How does the recognition of these past blessings encourage you to trust God with your future?



"Can I Push It?"

1. In this passage we see the nine lepers prioritize going to the priest, rather than returning to Jesus and thanking Him. In what ways do Christians set priority on participation in religious rituals rather than cultivating a personal relationship with Jesus?
2. You may have heard at Alfred Street, in response to demonstrative praise, "It don't take all that!" Why is it important to vocalize our praise with a "louder" voice than the one we petitioned the Lord with? What would be the purpose of openly expressing our praise?
3. Pastor Wesley presented several theories as to why the nine lepers did not return to thank Jesus. Why do *you* think they didn't return? Have you ever been "one of the nine"?

Activity:

Take a praise break! The facilitator will pair participants.

Facilitator: *Take 2 minutes to describe with your partner the things for which you are grateful. Then take 3 minutes to express your praise aloud. Your expression of praise can be done via the following, but are not limited to:*

- Song/Hymn
- Prayer
- Scripture Reading

Facilitator will bring the group back together in the discussion circle, and ask the following questions:

- Was the experience enjoyable?
- Was it uncomfortable?
- What did you learn about praise?
- How will this experience affect the way you praise in the future?



Spirit Work:

Pastor Wesley highlighted in this passage that the lepers praised God and thanked Jesus. Make a list of people for whom you are grateful. Write a prayer thanking God for the people He has used to blessed you. Choose some of the people on your list and thank them.