Teaching the Liturgical Year

The Cleansing of the Leper
(Middle and Upper Elementary)

February 14, 2021 – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Overview

In this week’s Gospel Jesus does something very counter-cultural—He interacts with and heals a leper. According to the Law of Moses, lepers were considered unclean and cast out from society. Why did Jesus go against the social norms of His time? What example did He give us for our own conduct? In this lesson, students will reflect upon these questions and consider how they can follow Jesus’ example.

Directions

A. Have your students read the Gospel passage, or read it aloud to your students, and then answer the focus questions.
B. Review and discuss the answers when they have completed the focus questions.
C. Have your students read the passages from Leviticus in Counter-Cultural and then have them respond to the reflection questions.
D. When Complete, call on students to share and discuss their answers with the class.

Answer Key

Focus Questions

1. He asked Jesus to make him clean. His question shows that he has great faith in Jesus.
2. He stretched out His hand, touched the man, and said, “I do will it. Be made clean.”
3. He told him to not tell anyone about the healing, but to instead go to the priest and offer himself for cleansing as Moses prescribed. Accept reasoned answers.
4. He publicized (told everyone) what Jesus had done.
5. It became hard for Jesus to enter into a town because everyone had heard about his healing. People came to Him for healing even before He entered into the towns.

**Counter Cultural**

1. The reading from Leviticus addresses the laws concerning leprosy. Anyone who had leprosy had to follow these laws.
2. Jesus broke the social norms and laws surrounding leprosy in order to show compassion to the man with leprosy and heal him.
3. Accept reasoned answers.
4. Accept reasoned answers.
5. Accept reasoned answers.
6. Accept reasoned answers.