



## LESSON 4: WHAT TO DO WHEN IT'S OVER

**WHAT WE WANT STUDENTS TO LEARN:** When Jesus delivers them from tough times, or provides them with the strength to persevere, their response should be thankfulness and praise.

**WHAT WE WANT STUDENTS TO DO WITH WHAT THEY'VE LEARNED:** To acknowledge a time when God either removed a tough time from their lives, or helped them persevere through one, and to communicate a message of thanks and praise to Him as a result.

**Scripture Focus:** Luke 17:11-19

**Supporting Scripture:** Psalms 28:7

**OVERVIEW:** You have spent the last several weeks discussing what to do when your students are in the midst of hard times. However, we must remember that truly there is always a “light at the end of the tunnel” as they say. God really does give us the strength to persevere, and eventually, He brings us to the other side of our difficult times. When this happens what is our response? Do we just go on with our lives without noticing? Do we focus on what could be the next hard time ahead? Or, do we stop and thank God for what He has done to get us through? Luke tells us the story of a time when Jesus healed 10 lepers. Nine of them just went away without acknowledging what God had done for them. One, a man who wasn't a Jew, and who shouldn't have even been associating with Jews, fell at Christ's feet in humble gratitude. This lesson will help you lead your students to an understanding that this should always be their response when a tough time gets better. You'll challenge them to remember that it is God who brought them through and to praise Him with all they have.

### TEACHER PREP VIDEO

The Jesus And Tough Times Teacher Prep Videos are short videos designed to help you grasp the main points of the lessons as you prepare to teach.

To access your “Jesus And Tough Times Lesson 4 Teacher Prep Video,” click on the URL below.

- <https://youthministry360.com/jesus-and-tough-times-teacher-prep>

## BIBLE BACKGROUND

The Bible Background is designed to help you provide some context for the Scripture you'll be studying. The Details give you background info for each book, The Setting informs you what's happening in and around the passage, and The Main Point gives you an overview of how the passage will be used in the lesson.

- **What do we mean by “context”?** In every ym360 Bible study lesson, you'll notice we make a point to encourage you to provide the context for the passages you study. By “context” we mean at the very least helping students know who wrote the book, when it was written, and why it was written.
- **What's The Big Deal?** When we teach the Bible without giving context, students don't get a “big picture” understanding of the story of the Bible. But this view is vital to grasping the story of God's plan of redemption for humankind. As you teach, use the Bible Background to help summarize the context.

## THE DETAILS

- **Author:** Luke was a doctor, a Gentile Christian, and a companion of Paul.
- **Time frame:** The Gospel of Luke was written around 60 AD.
- **Purpose:** Luke is the only Gentile author of the Bible. His entire purpose was to write an accurate account of the life of Jesus so as to present Jesus as Savior, fully God, and fully man. It is one of the synoptic Gospels, having much in common with the Gospels of Matthew and Mark.

## THE SETTING

Luke chapter 17 comes in the midst of a huge block of writing that contains a great deal of Jesus' teachings. In chapter 15, Luke shows Jesus addressing the Pharisees with the parables of the lost things, which, of course, ends with the parable of the prodigal son. Chapter 16 sees Jesus leveling His sights at the Pharisees, teaching on such topics as love of money, divorce, and mercy to the poor. The story you'll look at today comes as Jesus has left where He was teaching to travel to a different city. He encounters and subsequently heals the 10 lepers.

## THE MAIN POINT

The main point of this lesson is to remember to thank and praise God when He brings us through the tough times. Jesus comes upon the border of Galilee and Samaria. You may remember that the Jews hated Samaritans as they were considered, “half-breeds,” a group of people that came about when the Jews intermarried with pagan Gentiles. Jews would go out of their way to even avoid the shadow of a Samaritan touching them.

At a distance, a group of 10 lepers stood calling out for Jesus. Leprosy was a horrible skin disease that was considered “unclean” according to Jewish culture. Lepers were only allowed to touch or live with other lepers. They had to stay away from family and friends in a lonely life. This stage is set as a group of people who Jesus should have ignored for several reasons. Instead, Jesus miraculously heals them. Out of the 10, only one comes to thank Christ for what He has done. The one who returned was the Samaritan.

## LESSON PLAN

The Lesson Plan contains three elements: An introductory activity called The Lead-In; the Bible study section called The Main Event; an application-focused segment called The Last Word.

### THE LEAD-IN

- **Goal:** To help students understand that when God brings us through hard times our response should be to praise Him.
- **Set-Up:** You will need a large whiteboard, or several large pieces of paper hung on the wall for brainstorming, and then paper and pens for every student. Make sure students have paper and pens at the start of the activity, although they will not need them until later. Tell students when you pass it out, to just save it until the end of the activity.

**FIRST**, set up the time with students by saying something like this.

- **We've spent several weeks talking about what to do when the tough times come. We talked about how to be honest with God about how we are feeling. Then we learned that He is the one that gives us the strength to get through the tough times. Finally, we talked last week about how God promises to comfort us during our hardest times. This week we want to talk about when God gets us through, what is our response? Our tendency can be to just go on with our lives and move on to whatever is "next." It's important we remember to stop and thank God for He is the one that has been getting us through these times.**

**THEN**, explain to students that you're going to take a little time to brainstorm some different things about who God is and what He does so you can remember how to thank Him. Explain that you're going to ask some questions, and you want students to simply shout out their answers. Explain that you're going to write them on the board in large letters so everyone can see.

**NEXT**, ask something like:

- **What are some words we can use to describe who God is?**  
**Answers will vary.** Have students shout out words that describe the attributes of God. Is He compassionate, loving, faithful, kind? You may want to write a heading like, "Who God Is" at the top of this paper.
- **What are some words or phrases we can use to describe how God helps us during the tough times?**  
**Answers will vary** based on what they have been seeing happen in their own lives and what they know of God from Scripture. If they need help you can start them out with something like, "peace, comfort, love, He is always with us." You may want to put a heading on this that says, "How God Helps Us."
- **What are some things God has helped you with that you are thankful for?**  
**Answers will vary.** For this one you can choose to let students shout out answers or come forward and write them down. This heading should read, "I Am Thankful For."

**FINALLY**, when you've finished compiling your list, transition by **saying something like:**

- **Today we're going to talk about remembering to thank God when He helps us through hard times. It may be that circumstances changed, like we were sick and now we are well. It could be that things were difficult and God helped us have peace during those times. Either way, it is God who helped us. What we just did on the board helps us set the stage for remembering who God is and how He has interacted in history and our lives. We can know**

**God and we can express our thanks and praise to Him. We are going to talk about a group of people who didn't understand what that meant, and one who showed God praise in a radical way.**

Transition into the Main Event.

## THE MAIN EVENT

- **Goal:** To help students understand that when Jesus delivers them from tough times, or provides them with the strength to persevere, their response should be thankfulness and praise.
- **Set Up:** You will need the notes from brainstorming.

**FIRST**, ask students how it has been to go through this series in talking about where God is during the tough times. What are some things they have learned?

**Answers will vary**

If you feel like you didn't review enough in the opening paragraph, use the following bullet points to review what you have covered over the last three lessons:

- **Lesson 1:** When we experience tough times, we should express our emotions to God in real, honest ways, embracing a more honest dialogue with Him.
- **Lesson 2:** Faith in Jesus and His ability to lead them through trials is what will get them through tough times.
- **Lesson 3:** Jesus stands ready to offer comfort to us in the midst of our tough times.

**NEXT**, say something like:

- **Some of you may still be going through a tough time right now. We are talking about how to react when the tough time is "over," but no one expects everyone to be over his or her hard times today. Yet, there will come a time when we will get through it. This might mean things have changed and get better. It could also mean we are just starting to persevere through it. What does it really mean to persevere?**

**Answer:** Persevering isn't just surviving something; it's really conquering something. It means that you know that although the situation you are in stays the same, you have courage and peace that comes from God to get through it.

- **It's easy to forget God when things change for the good. Why do you think that is?**

**Answers will vary.**

**Say something like:**

- **When we are amid tough times, sometimes we cling to God because it feels like He is all we have. We are desperate for help and comfort and so we ask the one we know can and will change things. Then when it does start to lift, we feel so much better we forget to say thank you. We are going to meet some people who did that very thing with Jesus.**

**THEN**, have students turn to Luke 17. While they are finding the passage, provide a little context using the Details and/or Setting sections of the Bible Background. Then, read or have a student read, Luke 17:11-19. **Then say something like:**

- **Let me tell you some details that might be important to this story. In this passage, Jesus comes upon the border of Galilee and Samaria. The Jewish people typically hated Samaritans as they were considered, "half-breeds," a group of people that came about when the Jews intermarried with "pagans." Jews would go out of their way to even**

avoid the shadow of a Samaritan touching them. They typically would walk around the whole country just to avoid interacting with a Samaritan. At a distance, a group of 10 lepers stood calling out for Jesus. Leprosy was a horrible skin disease that was considered “unclean.” Lepers were only allowed to touch or live with other lepers. They had to stay away from family and friends in a lonely life. They were never allowed to go to church or ever talk to a priest to deal with their sin. They were “stuck” diseased and hated.

Ask:

- **Learning that, what stands out to you about the 10 lepers calling out for Jesus to heal them?**

**Answer:** They were desperate, just like we are during our hardest times. They wanted to be healed so they could be “clean,” move back with their families, and finally be able to live with people again. They also obviously knew who Jesus was and what He could do for them, that is why they called to Him. However, they also knew not to come close.

- **In verse 14 what is Jesus’ reaction? What is the lepers’ reaction? What happens?**

**Answer:** Jesus tells them to go talk to the priest. Then they immediately go. On their way there they are healed. Jesus had compassion on them regardless of who they were or the type of sickness they carried. They obviously trusted Jesus because they weren’t healed immediately, it wasn’t until they started “going” they were healed. They didn’t know how He would do it, but these 10 trusted Jesus would make them well.

- **When they realize that they have been healed, what happens? (Look at verses 15 & 16)**

**Answer:** Nine of them just keep going. Excited they are healed, they are so focused on that they don’t even think about Jesus. One realizes who has done this for him, turns around screaming praise to God, and throws himself at Jesus’ feet.

- **What was unique about the man who thanked Jesus, and what was Christ’s reaction?**

**Answer:** He was a Samaritan. The one that shouldn’t have known who Jesus was is the one who is grateful. Jesus recognizes this. He reminds the man it is his faith in Jesus that made him well. This doesn’t mean He took the healing away from the other 9. No, they were healed still. However, this was different.

- **How do you think the man’s second interaction with Jesus (after his healing) changed him forever?**

**Answers will vary:** This man had a personal interaction with Jesus. Christ made sure to let the man know he was healed for believing in who Jesus was. The other 9 remained healed, but they did not have the time to hear from Jesus. It was like Jesus said to this one, “You know me, and who I am, remember that.” I believe the next time something difficult happened, he would remember it wasn’t WHAT God could do for him, but WHO God is that matters.

- **Do you know the difference between what God does for you and who He is?**

**Answers will vary:** It’s important for us to be thankful for the stuff the Lord does for us. However, there will be more hard times to come. In the book of James, we are reminded how to react when we face “trials of many kinds.” There are going to be different things that happen to us all through our life. When we remember to be thankful for who God is, it’s easy to praise Him for what He does.

**FINALLY,** read or have a student read aloud Psalms 28:7. When you’ve finished, **ask:**

- **Can you see the way the person who wrote this Psalm is feeling about God?**

**Answer:** This psalmist knows who God is for him. God protects him, takes care of him, and he trusts him with his whole heart. God helps him and this person is totally filled with joy.

- **When is the last time you really thanked God for helping you? Have you ever “burst out in song?”**

**Answers will vary.**

Ask if there are any questions, then transition into the Last Word.

## THE LAST WORD

- **Goal:** To help students acknowledge a time when God either removed a tough time from their lives, or helped them persevere through one, and to communicate a message of thanks and praise to Him as a result.
- **Set-Up:** You'll need another sheet of paper and something to write with.

**FIRST**, ask students the following question:

- **Who can tell me what a psalm is?**

**Answer:** A psalm was literally a song that various people wrote to express their love and thanks to God. Often Psalms would start with something tough that was going on, and then end with thanking God for being with them during hard times.

**THEN**, explain to students that you want them to take a few minutes and write one verse to their own "psalm." Have them think a moment of a way God has helped them personally during a hard time. **Say something like:**

- **How did God bring you through? This is the subject of your psalm. You can either use your own words or use some of the ones we brainstormed at the beginning of our time for inspiration. Remember, these are not about being perfect or anything that is "right" or "wrong," this is about you remembering God has been with you and helped you through a hard time.**

Allow students a few moments to do this. If there is time, ask a couple of students to share.

**NEXT**, say something like:

- **If we are honest, most of us don't go around just "bursting" into song because we are so overwhelmed with thanks for God. We may sing at the top of our lungs in church groups or at camp, but walking down the hall at school and shouting, "I LOVE JESUS, HE HELPS ME THROUGH THE TOUGH TIMES!"? It just doesn't happen. The question is, why don't we do that?**  
**Answers will vary.**

Ask them to take out the Psalm they wrote at the beginning, and look back at Psalm 28:7. **Then say something like:**

- **Take a few moments and look at Psalm 28:7. Rewrite this verse in your own words, on the same paper you just wrote your psalm. But instead of using the word "my" or "mine" put your name in the verse. So you might say, "The Lord helps Jane." If you wouldn't say, "God is my shield," what is He to you? How would you write this?**

**THEN**, after a few moments of them rewriting the verse, then **say something like:**

- **What is something God has done just for you, and you know it? You may need to think about that for a moment. Write that down next. What did He do and why are you thankful?**  
**Answers will vary.**
- **How does it feel to stop and thank God for all He has and is doing to help you?**  
**Answers will vary.**

**FINALLY**, close by **saying something like:**

- **Just like the leper who remembered to go back and say thank you, our gratitude changes us. It reminds us to not only think about ourselves but to truly know we cannot get through anything on our own. Being thankful is one of the things that will help us the next time something hard comes along. Look at your paper. This is your psalm of praise. This is your first step in being grateful for who Jesus is. Take it home with you, as you'll need it for your devos this week.**

Make sure there are no closing thoughts and then close in prayer.

- Don't forget to distribute devotions to your students this week. If you're printing them, have them available for students as you wrap up class. If you're texting a link, posting them on Social Media, or some other means of electronic distribution, make sure you inform students of when they will be receiving them.

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU ...

- ♦ *Do you have questions about a lesson?*
- ♦ *Something that worked particularly well you want to share?*
- ♦ *Something that didn't work you want to bring up?*

We value your feedback! Please do not hesitate to email us with your questions, comments, or concerns, at [feedback@youthministry360.com](mailto:feedback@youthministry360.com).