

Mindful Colouring

Jesus heals a Leper

As we light this candle
And ring the bell
We pray that God is with us this day.

Close your eyes
Place your hand on your belly. Notice your breathe as your belly moves.
Breathe in through your nose and out
Through your mouth.
Breathe in and breathe and out
Repeat for 1 minutes.

Invite participants to begin colouring



Song - Healing is in your hand_ Christy Noekels
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5sG94EKGdCU>

Song - God Help Me - PLUMB
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rqu7eBwhGs4>

Song - Michael W. Smith - Healing Rain
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZNFu93Fgzvg>

Song - Leeland - Way Maker
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJCV_2H9xD0

Scripture - Mark 1:40-45

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once. He said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them." The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.

Scripture Reflection

The passage you've shared from Mark 1:40-45 is a profound account of Jesus' miraculous healing and his relationship with both the marginalized and the broader society. In reflecting on this passage, there are several themes that we can consider.

Compassion and Healing: At the heart of this passage is the theme of divine compassion and the transformative power of Christ's healing. The leper, who is marginalized and considered unclean by society, approaches Jesus with faith and humility, acknowledging Jesus' authority and power to heal. Jesus' response is deeply compassionate; he is "moved with pity." Despite the social taboos of the time, Jesus touches the man, affirming his worth and dignity. The physical healing is immediate, but the gesture of touching the man has a deeper significance—it restores the leper's social and religious standing in the community.

Obedience to the Law: After the healing, Jesus instructs the man to follow the Mosaic Law by showing himself to the priest and offering the prescribed sacrifices. This demonstrates Jesus' respect for the law and the established religious order. It also serves a practical purpose: it would provide official recognition of the man's cleanliness, allowing him to be reintegrated into society.

The Power of Testimony: Despite Jesus' instruction to keep the matter private, the healed man cannot contain his joy and goes on to publicize the miracle. This response is human—overflowing gratitude can be difficult to contain. However, it also creates a paradoxical situation where Jesus, the healer, becomes isolated due to the crowds seeking him, while the man who was isolated is now free to rejoin society.

The Cost of Discipleship and Ministry: Jesus' ministry is marked by self-giving and often leads to personal cost. As the healed man spreads the news, Jesus can no longer enter towns openly. His healing act leads to further isolation for himself, a poignant foreshadowing of his ultimate sacrifice. It also illustrates the nature of Jesus' mission, which is not to seek fame but to serve others, even at a personal cost.

By meditating on these themes, we are encouraged to embrace a faith not based on grandiosity and big words but through the intimate power of active in love, obedient in practice, wise in testimony, and sacrificial in nature—just as Jesus exemplified in his encounter with the leper.

Silent Reflection

Silently reflect on the today's scripture passage and its meaning for us today. Reflect on the questions for reflection.

Discussion

1. How do we respond to the marginalized in our society? Do we extend compassion and help restore their dignity?
2. Are we willing to be obedient, even when it is challenging or goes against the grain of our desires?
3. How do we handle the good news of our own experiences with God? Do we share our testimonies with discretion and wisdom?
4. Are we prepared to follow Christ's example of self-sacrifice in our own call to discipleship?

Prayers of the faithful

1. Let us pray for the Church around the world, that it may always reflect the compassion of Christ. May all Christians be moved to reach out and touch those who are marginalized, offering healing and hope to the most vulnerable among us. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Lord hear us.

ALL - Lord hear our prayer.

2. We pray for all who suffer from illnesses, both visible and invisible, that they may experience the healing touch of God. May healthcare workers be instruments of Jesus' healing power, acting with skill and compassion. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Lord hear us.

ALL - Lord hear our prayer.

3. "Let us ask for the grace to be obedient to God's will, as Jesus taught us. May we follow divine guidance in our lives, even when it challenges us, and may our actions bear witness to the love and commands of God. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Lord hear us.

ALL - Lord hear our prayer.

4. We pray for the courage to share our experiences of God's goodness with wisdom and discernment. May our testimonies of faith inspire others to seek the Lord, while respecting the privacy and journey of each individual. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Lord hear us. **ALL** - Lord hear our prayer.

5. We pray for all who find themselves in deserted places, whether by choice or circumstance. May the solitude be a source of strength and encounter with God. Let us also remember those who serve in hidden ways, sacrificing personal glory for the good of others. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer." Lord hear us. **ALL** - Lord hear our prayer.

5. Are there any other prayer?

Closing prayer

Loving God,

We come before You today, inspired by the story of Your compassion and power as shown in the healing of the leper in Mark 1:40-45. In a world filled with pain and despair, this story reminds us of Your endless love and Your willingness to reach out to those in need, regardless of their condition.

Lord, we are moved by the faith of the leper who came to Jesus, believing wholeheartedly in His ability to heal and restore. Teach us to have that kind of faith, to come before You with our afflictions, doubts, and fears, trusting in Your lovingkindness and Your power to transform our lives.

We pray for those among us who are seeking healing, whether it be physical, emotional, or spiritual. May they feel Your comforting presence and receive the healing touch of Your hand. Help us to be instruments of Your peace and healing in the world, reaching out to those who are marginalized and suffering, just as Jesus did.

Guide us to live our lives with compassion and humility, recognizing the dignity and worth of every person. May we always remember the power of Your love to cleanse, heal, and renew.

Thank You, Lord, for Your mercy and for the countless ways You work in our lives. We praise You for the miracles You perform every day, seen and unseen. May we always give glory to Your name, sharing the story of Your goodness and love with the world.

In Jesus' Name, we pray,

Amen.