



Cooperative Baptist  
Fellowship North Carolina

# FAITH FAMILY TALKS

CBFNC is offering this resource from the CBF Children's Ministry Network, to our state fellowship to provide families weekly spiritual conversation starters. Our hope is that this resource empowers parents to have more faith-filled conversations at home.

*Listen. Talk. Go.*

November 2022: Thanksgiving

*Written by Rev. Michael P. Howington  
Community Connecting Center, Jonesboro, GA*



Cooperative Baptist  
Fellowship North Carolina

## FEATURED RESOURCES: FAITH FAMILY TALKS

### WEEK OF NOVEMBER 6

#### Listen.

Open your Bible and read Luke 17:11-19 with your family.

We read stories—especially of Jesus—about Lepers in the Bible. Lepers were people who had a skin disease; and back then, there were no doctors or drug stores to get creams or medicines. It is hard to imagine, but in those days, these people were considered less than everyone else! That's right—they were not allowed to go inside of church to worship God, and they were not allowed to live or work among the people. They were basically ignored, kept away. And in those days, if they did not work, they had no food to eat, toys to play with, or clothes to wear! They were cast away, and they yelled out to Jesus to make them well. No one would talk to them. In fact, no one was allowed to talk to them. Can you imagine having a sunburn or bug bites, and the rules were that no one was allowed to talk to you? They knew that; and when they saw Jesus, they shouted out because they assumed he would ignore them. Jesus had been walking and was probably also tired, though He still stopped to listen to them.

#### Talk.

Ask your children think about something they really want (a toy, a trip, a special treat, etc). Have them shout out that thing they want. Have an adult walk by them as they are shouting out, but do not look, respond, or react. Repeat as many times as needed for them to feel ignored or frustrated.

- How did you /whoever was being ignored feel when trying to get an adult's attention to get what you needed? How do you think these lepers felt when everyone was doing the same thing?
- Is there someone at school that you see people ignoring, making fun of, or just moving away from because of their physical appearance (or any other reason)?
- Why do you think people treat them that way?

*Dear Jesus: Thank you for always being there for us and providing all that we need. We love you and thank you for always taking care of us. We praise you for using us to help others like you have helped us. Help us to always listen to you and to pay attention to others who may be treated like the lepers were. Help us also to pay attention to, love, and pray for them. Amen.*

#### Go.

Jesus is not only always there for us, He is also working through us—as we will learn from this story next week. What would happen if you talked to them or sat with them? Try that this week.

***Listen. Talk. Go.***



*This resource is produced by CBFNC's Children's Ministry Team.*



Cooperative Baptist  
Fellowship North Carolina

## FEATURED RESOURCES: FAITH FAMILY TALKS

### WEEK OF NOVEMBER 13

#### Listen.

Read Luke 17:11-19 as a family.

Last time, we talked about the 10 lepers in the Jesus story. They were not allowed to be with the rest of the people because of a skin disease. Jesus told them to visit the priest (preacher); and on their way, they were healed! These people were not allowed to be near the church or priest, and that is where Jesus sent them, anyway. Jesus knew they were not allowed, though he knew they would be healed before they got there. He also knew the priests would also recognize they were healed. Out of the 10, only ONE—yes ONE—person stopped to thank God for being healed!

Remember last week when you were shouting for the thing you really wanted and we ignored you? If you had not be ignored and had gotten what you wanted but did not even say “thank you,” how would that have made me feel? Jesus gives us so much, and soon we will be getting ready for Advent as we remember the coming of Jesus to us as a baby. We should always say “thank you” to God for the big things but also all the little things that we have in life.

#### Talk

Talk about things in your daily life that you are thankful for. Share from your day-to-day life. Maybe at your next meal, you can name 10 small things you are thankful to God for giving/doing. The smaller and sillier, the better! *Children learn more deeply when we participate and share in the conversation. The goal is to prompt them to think and recognize the small things in addition to the big things (like healing) that we should praise God for.*

*Dear Jesus: We thank you for our parents, pastors, and teachers who help us to understand your Bible. We thank you for the big ways that you take care of us, and we pray for you to help us see you in everything we do. Help us to recognize that all things we get come from you—even small things! Thank you for taking care of us, and help us to see the ways You can use us to help other people. Amen.*



This resource is produced by CBFNC's Children's Ministry Team.

**Listen. Talk. Go.**



Cooperative Baptist  
Fellowship North Carolina

## FEATURED RESOURCES: FAITH FAMILY TALKS

### WEEK OF NOVEMBER 13, *cont'd.*

#### Go.

Create a "thankful jar." In the "thankful-for" conversation, have them write out things to prayerfully praise God for. Here are some suggestions:

- Have them write them out the things they're thankful for, and place them in their own jar. (And keep adding to it! You could even encourage one new thing a day.)
- Everyone write out the things they're thankful for and drop them into a shared jar. Every day this week, grab one or two of them and specifically pray prayers of thanksgiving to God during the meal's blessing or devotion time. This is a great chance to share other things that happen during the week, and it also doubles as a conversation starter for the rest of the week: seeing God, seeing God's blessing, and seeing God's presence in daily life.



*This resource is produced by CBFNC's Children's Ministry Team.*

***Listen. Talk. Go.***



Cooperative Baptist  
Fellowship North Carolina

## FEATURED RESOURCES: FAITH FAMILY TALKS

### WEEK OF NOVEMBER 20

#### Listen.

Open your Bible and read Luke 17:13-19 with your family.

Remember last time when we talked about how these 10 lepers were healed, but only one thanked God? Besides having a skin problem and being not allowed to be around others, the one who gave thanks was also a Samaritan. We read other stories about Samaria in the Bible, and it is important to remember that many people did not like people from Samaria. They were considered bad people. The rule was that Jews were not allowed to talk to or even be nice to Samaritans! The Jews even avoided walking through Samaria! Can you imagine being disliked just because you are from (name your town, state, or neighborhood—whatever will be easiest for them to understand)?

When Jesus healed the 10 lepers, they went to see the priest as Jesus had instructed. However, the Samaritan leper returned to Jesus and laid down on his tummy and kept giving thanks to God. In these days, this was an act of great thanksgiving and praise to God. I'll bet he thanked God not only for the healing him but for taking the time to talk to him and treat him like a person! Can you imagine being sick and being ignored just because of where you are from? You would feel so happy for someone to talk to you!

#### Talk.

- Have your children explain what they have learned about Samaritans and lepers. Engage in ways that help them see "lepers" and "Samaritans" in our culture and world today.
- Spend some time talking with your children about how they can be kind and welcoming to people who might be considered different. If your children are nervous about talking to people that are different from them, help them process what makes them nervous about this (examples: looking silly, getting in trouble, afraid of wheelchairs, afraid of what their peers may think, etc). Help them practice what they would say so they can be more comfortable talking to people and making them feel seen.
- Close it out with the idea that God uses us to help others. Conversely, God uses others to help us. Sometimes these are people who maybe talk too loudly, are from a different place, or we just don't like them. God loves them, and so should we.



*This resource is produced by CBFNC's Children's Ministry Team.*

***Listen. Talk. Go.***



Cooperative Baptist  
Fellowship North Carolina

## FEATURED RESOURCES: FAITH FAMILY TALKS

### WEEK OF NOVEMBER 20, *cont'd.*

*Dear Jesus: Thank you for loving us, saving us, and making sure that we and our parents have all that they need to take care of us and get us what we need. This week, help us to recognize you in each person we see. Help us to be more like you and treat everyone the way you treat us. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

#### **Go.**

As you reflect on what we talked about today, make a point each night at dinner to see if and how they have seen others differently this week.



*This resource is produced by CBFNC's Children's Ministry Team.*

***Listen. Talk. Go.***



Cooperative Baptist  
Fellowship North Carolina

## FEATURED RESOURCES: FAITH FAMILY TALKS

### WEEK OF NOVEMBER 27

#### Listen.

Read Luke 17:13-19 as a family.

We have talked about some people who were ignored by others, but they talked to Jesus, anyway. They asked with all their hearts for Jesus to heal them, and Jesus did. Jesus told them to go see the priest who also realized they had been healed. Although they were not even allowed to talk to Jesus, they did it, anyway, and Jesus did not ask them for anything in return. However, Jesus did notice that only one returned and gave thanks to God for their healing.

This week, we celebrate Thanksgiving, and it is a busy time! We are supposed to be remembering and thinking about all that we have to be thankful for. I am going to try hard to think about what I am thankful for and remember that it all comes from God! That's right—this turkey that we will cook—God gave to us. The family and friends we will eat with—God gave them to us. The yummy (name a fan favorite and name the person who gave the recipe/cooking)—God gave to us. It is sometimes hard to remember that all these things come from God! God is always taking care of us, even when we don't remember to thank God for doing that. Did you know that sometimes we act like the other people in this story and ignore God? Sometimes, we are like the people who got healed and ran off to do other things instead of going back to God.

#### Talk

- Remember our "thankful jar"? This week, let's write down all of the things we are thankful for. In my list, I am going to include you, the air I breathe, the water I have, and the names of everyone who will be here on Thanksgiving.
- Spend some time reflecting on the small things and a few big things for which you are thankful. Write some of these down, and speak some out loud.
- Each night at dinner, read your list and spend about a minute talking and adding to it. Look for all of the small reasons that God gives us cause to be thankful. NOTHING is too little or big to give credit to God.



*This resource is produced by CBFNC's Children's Ministry Team.*

***Listen. Talk. Go.***



Cooperative Baptist  
Fellowship North Carolina

## FEATURED RESOURCES: FAITH FAMILY TALKS

### WEEK OF NOVEMBER 27, *cont'd.*

*Dear Jesus: We have at least 10,000 reasons to be thankful to you for all the ways you take care of us. We thank you for being the great God that you are, full of love for us and always there for us, even when we do not deserve it or are not thankful. Help us to be more like the Samaritan leper, always returning to you to give you praise and glory for who You are and what You do for us, out of this great love. Help us to treat others this same way and—as You tell us—to do things for others so that they, too, have at least 10,000 reasons to give you thanks and recognize how awesome you are! Amen.*

#### Go.

Sometime this week, slowly read Psalm 103 or 108 together. Then watch [this video](#). This can be played or sung before each devotion, or you can use this as a devotion after Thanksgiving to summarize the entire passage as a family.

*Michael resides in Jonesboro, Georgia. Originally from Stone Mountain and raised at Smoke Rise Baptist church, he met his wife Melody and have 5 children and 7 grandchildren. He entered the ministry later in life, becoming ordained in 2018 and he is finishing a Divinity degree at Northern Baptist Seminary (June 2023!). He is passionate about the Bible, family devotions, and having all ages and abilities be able to understand the richness within the Bible. He is launching a new church, Community Connecting Center, to be a Christ-centered place of healing, service, and community building. He has worked with youth for two decades, and recently served as a children's minister.*



*This resource is produced by CBFNC's Children's Ministry Team.*

***Listen. Talk. Go.***