

# DO NOT FEAR



2019 World Mission Appeal

# for I am with you

## The Liturgy of the Word

### Gospel

*The proclamation of the Gospel is accompanied by a dramatic presentation.*

#### Narrator:

The Lord be with you.

#### All:

And with your Spirit.

#### Narrator:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (1:40-45)

#### All:

Glory to you, O Lord.

#### Narrator:

A man with leprosy came to Jesus and begged him on his knees.

#### Leper:

If you are willing, you can make me clean.

#### Narrator:

Jesus was filled with compassion.

He reached out his hand and touched the man.

#### Jesus:

I am willing! Be clean!

#### Narrator:

Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.

Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning:

#### Jesus:

See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing.

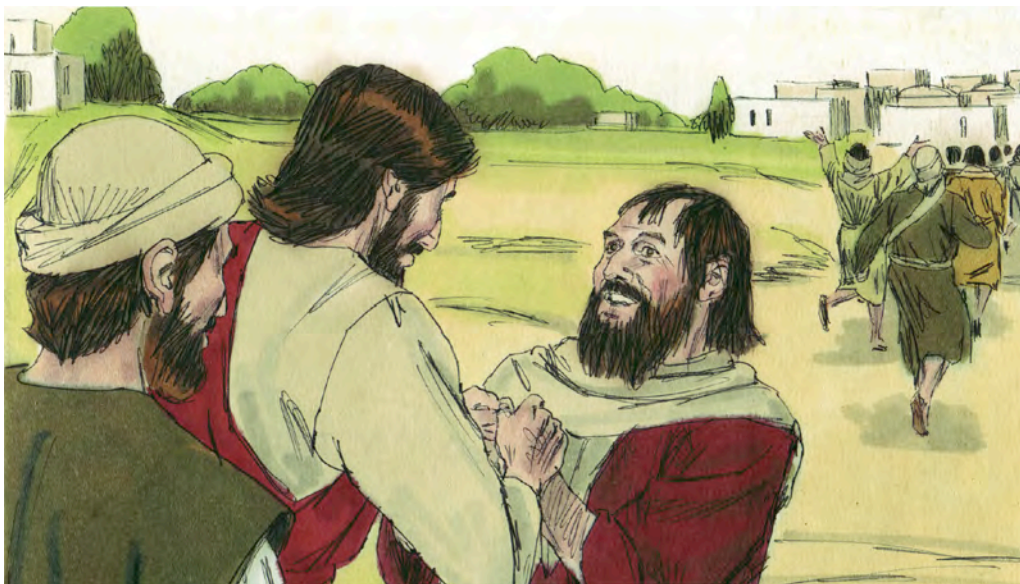
#### Narrator:

Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.

The Gospel of the Lord.

#### All:

Praise to you, Lord, Jesus Christ.



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## The Liturgy of the Word continued...

### Question and Answer Reflection

**Student 1:**

What is a leper?

**Student 2:**

In Hebrew and Christian Scripture, a leper was a person with a skin disease. A leper could be a person afflicted with boils, sores, skin infections, or patchy scaly skin.

**Student 1:**

How did the people of his community treat a leper?

**Student 2:**

A leper was treated as an outcast... he was abandoned by the community. He was forced to live apart. He had to tear his clothes so that all would know he was a leper. He had to call out "Unclean. Unclean" to any one that came near him. He could not touch anyone, and no one was allowed to touch him. He could not even go near his own family.

**Student 1:**

Were people afraid of catching leprosy?

**Student 2:**

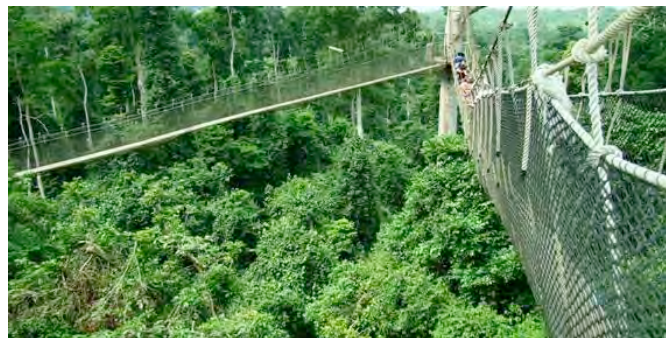
Yes. But you would also be considered ritually unclean if you touched a leper. That means you could not attend any religious rituals.

**Student 1:**

Catholic Mission's focus country this year is Ghana. Where is Ghana?

**Student 2:**

Ghana is in West Africa, close to the Equator. It is blessed with an abundance of nature. Here is Kakum National Park.



**Student 1:**

Is it a poor country?

**Student 2:**

Yes. Millions of people live in extreme poverty.

**Student 1:**

What projects are the Catholic Church supporting in Ghana?

**Student 2:**

The Church is supporting many projects. The two projects that support young children are the Mother of Mercies Baby Home and the Nazareth Home for God's Children.

**Student 1:**

What is the connection between our Gospel story of the leper and Ghana?

**Student 2:**

In some parts of the north of Ghana children who are born with disabilities struggle to survive... like the leper in the story.

Many children with disabilities in northern Ghana do not have the opportunities to receive an education and learn skills that will enable them to be self-sufficient and gain viable employment.

**Student 1:**

What can we do to help?

**Student 2:**

We can support the work of Sr Stan. Sr Stan and her team manage Mother of Mercies Baby Home and the Nazareth Home for God's Children.

Sister Stan seeks out those children who are challenged by disabilities. She receives into her care those children who are orphans.

She makes sure that the children receive shelter, safety and loving care. She also tries to give children with disabilities the training and skills they need to lead fulfilling lives in their communities. Sr Stan is being Christ to those who are in desperate need of care, and is living witness of the proclamation of Isaiah: "Do not fear, for I am with you."