

Power to heal

All over the world right now people are worried about catching the Covid-19 coronavirus. It can make people very sick and so far 435,000 people around the world have died from it.

Back in the time of Jesus there was a dreaded skin disease called leprosy that people were scared of catching, and infected people were isolated from the rest of society and forced to live on their own.

Today's story shows how Jesus cared about a man with leprosy and had the power to heal him.



Jesus heals a man with leprosy

As Jesus came down the mountain, he was followed by large crowds. Suddenly a man with leprosy came and knelt in front of Jesus. He said, "Lord, you have the power to make me well, if only you wanted to."

Jesus put his hand on the man and said, "I want to! Now you are well." At once the man's leprosy disappeared. Jesus told him,

"Don't tell anyone about this, but go and show the priest that you are well. Then take a gift to the temple just as Moses commanded, and everyone will know that you have been healed."

Matthew 8:1-4 (Good News Translation)

QUESTIONS

- (1) Imagine you are the man with leprosy. How would you feel about having to live away from everyone else?
- (2) What evidence is there that this man had faith in Jesus as someone special who could help him?
- (3) Touching a person with leprosy was a dangerous thing to do because of the risk of catching the disease. How do you think the crowd would have reacted as they watched Jesus touch the man with leprosy?
- (4) What does this story tell us about Jesus?
- (5) Is Jesus willing and able to help us with the needs in our own lives today? Explain why you think this.

ACTIVITIES

See if you can work out the code on the handout sheet. Write a prayer in code to Jesus.

Today leprosy can be cured but many people still suffer from it in poor countries. Look at the video about the Christian organisation called The Leprosy Mission. Think about how this organisation shows the attitude Jesus had in caring for lepers.