



***Be the One***  
**November 14, 2021**  
*Luke 17:11-17*

Connect:

- There are no sweeter words to hear from another than, “*I thank you,*” “*I appreciate you,*” “*I value you,*” “*I’m grateful for you.*” When is a time you truly felt appreciated by another? What did that do for your spirit and how did it impact your outlook moving forward?

Engage

- Read **Luke 17:11-17**. On a first reading of this text, choose your number one take away and share it with the group. Upon a second reading, what do you notice besides your answer to the first question?
- The person with leprosy that returns to express gratitude is also noted as a Samaritan – as if the others are Galilean. As Samaritan’s were outsiders and generally despised, Jesus singling out the Samaritan as the grateful one, the protagonist of the story, the faithful one, would have been frustrating for the audience hearing Jesus’ story. This was a frequent practice of Jesus in his storytelling. What does this say about the tactics of Jesus’ teaching? Why does he do this? Who would be singled out today in a similar fashion if Jesus was sitting in your circle now, telling this same story with modern day characters?
- Some see an expression of gratitude as weakness. Others name it as a sign of faithful maturity. Discuss the two viewpoints and suggest which seems most true in your experience.
- In a world that is so divisive and bitter, gratitude almost seems countercultural. Do you agree? What would it look like for Broadway to embody a spirit of gratitude – creating a countercultural movement of thankfulness?
- Some have suggested that the words *grace*, *gratitude*, and *gift* all stem from a common meaning. Discuss your sense of their connections and also their differences.

Next Steps:

- Consider writing four thank you notes (*or text messages!*) this week to people in your life who have impacted your life’s journey. Specifically, consider the four phrases in the opening “*Connect*” bullet point. Discern the differences of “*I thank you*” from “*I appreciate you,*” “*I value you,*” and “*I’m grateful for you*” and associate each phrase with a particular person and write to them accordingly.

Pray:

- “*What a gift, O Lord, to come into your presence with grateful hearts. When we have been so preoccupied to miss sharing our loving gratitude for your work in our lives, forgive us. Open expressive words in us that come from the heart. May our primary language be that of thanks and praise. Amen.*”