

Madame Blueberry



What is the STORY about?

This is the story of a very “blue” berry. Why so blue? Madame Blueberry wants more stuff. She has everything she needs—good friends, plenty of food, a nice tree house to live in—but some of her friends have a lot more. Sound familiar? Spend a little time with Madame Blueberry and the rest of the Veggies and you’ll soon learn that “being greedy makes you grumpy...but a thankful heart is a happy heart!” Madame Blueberry teaches kids why God wants us to be thankful for what we have.

- *A Lesson in Thankfulness*
- *Key Passage: Luke 17:11-19 (A Lesson-related Bible story)*
- *Running time: 37 minutes*



What do you THINK?

- *Why was Madame Blueberry always so blue? (She wanted more stuff)*
- *How did Madame Blueberry know there was a new Stuff Mart in town? (Three representatives of the Stuff Mart came to her door with a catalog of all the stuff in the new store)*
- *What situation caught Madame Blueberry’s attention on the way to the Stuff Mart? (A family celebrating a birthday with only one piece of pie...and they were thankful AND happy)*
- *After Madame Blueberry filled many shopping carts, what caused her to change her mind about the stuff she had purchased? (A little boy was happy even though his father would not let him purchase a train set)*
- *Why was Madame Blueberry still happy after her tree house fell to the ground? (She learned to be THANKFUL and knew that everything would be fine)*



What does the BIBLE say?

The story of ten lepers and the THANKFULNESS of one is found in Luke 17:11-19. Read the story from an easy-to-understand Bible translation OR tell the story as follows.

One day when Jesus was traveling to Jerusalem, he met ten men who had a dreaded skin disease called leprosy. Because they were not allowed to go near other people, they stood at a distance and called out in loud voices for Jesus, the Master, to have pity on them. They wanted Jesus to heal them. When Jesus heard their cries, he answered them saying, “Go show yourselves to the priests.” The ten lepers did as Jesus instructed, and as they traveled they were cleansed. When one of the men realized that he was healed, he returned to Jesus and threw himself at his feet—praising God and thanking Him for his healing. (The man who returned to thank Jesus was a Samaritan.) Jesus asked why the other nine lepers had not returned—after all, he healed all ten. Only the Samaritan, a foreigner, had returned to give praise to God. Jesus told the thankful man to rise up and go because his faith had made him well. Ten lepers were healed, but only one gave thanks.

The Story of the Ten Lepers



ACTIVITY

How much “stuff” do you need to be happy? (Listen to responses from children) Even though Madame Blueberry had lots of stuff, she was not happy. What did she need? (A thankful heart)

Direct the children to sit in a large circle. Empty a large bag or box of “stuff” (cell phone, ink pen, towel, book, Bible, socks, banana, various toys, medicine container, etc.) in the center of the circle. After the children have looked over all of the articles from their seated positions, go around the circle and allow each child (one at a time) to choose one item. Lead and encourage discussion as the children answer the following questions:

- Do you have one of these items?
- Could you live without this article?
- Why should you be thankful for this particular item?



What can we DO?

Talk about some of the characters from our lesson and tell why they were thankful.

- The family celebrating the birthday with one piece of pie
- The little boy whose father bought him a ball instead of a train
- Madame Blueberry (at the end of the story)
- The one man with leprosy who returned to thank Jesus

Brainstorm with the children about ways to show thanks. Supply each child with a pencil and a piece of lined paper. Direct each child to write “I AM THANKFUL” at the top of the paper. (Younger students will need help with this.) Tell the children to record each time they say “thank-you” or show “thanks” to someone during the next week. They may record the incident themselves or have an older person sign the paper for them. If time allows, provide paper, envelopes, stickers, markers/crayons, and pencils to create thank you notes for the children to use.

3 Things to remember about Ten Lepers

1. Jesus met **TEN LEPERS**
2. He **HEALED** all of them
3. Only **ONE GAVE THANKS** to Jesus for his healing

KEY VERSE

(Proverbs 15:27) “A greedy man brings trouble to his family, but he who hates bribes will live.”

KEY NUGGET

Be thankful for what you have.



Help the children find these Bible verses to read aloud.

- **2 Corinthians 9:15** “Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift.”
- **Ephesians 5:20** “Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- **Psalms 100:4** “Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.”