感谢神的良善和慈爱

你们要称谢耶和华,因祂本为善,祂的慈爱永远长存! —— 诗篇 118:1

嗨,孩子们,我们先让从玩游戏开始吧。你能重新排列这些字母,找出它们会组成什么单词吗? 给你
5 秒钟的时间,5、4、3、2、1,时间到了,看看有多少人答对? ☺
答案是 "THANK YOU" 是不是很容易?



再看以下这个,给个提示你,它也是同样的意思,但是这一次它不是英语。如果你在新加坡或中国,我想你会毫不费力就答对了。你做对了吗? "XIE XIE"是中文的"谢谢"的意思。





今天的圣经故事从一群人开始,这群人很可能根本没有任何人为他们做过任何事情,这群人都是<u>麻风病人</u>。在圣经时代,麻风病人无论走到哪里都不受欢迎,这是因为他们所患的麻风病传染性很强,以至于没有人敢接近他们,以防他们也被传染了,甚至连他们自己的家人和朋友都不敢接近他们。这是多么令人心痛!



路加福音第 17 章告诉我们,有一天耶稣正走进一个 村子,祂遇见了一群长大麻风的人。这群人共有十个, 都远远的站着、喊叫着:"耶稣,我的主啊,可怜可怜我 们吧!救救我们吧!"可怜的麻风病人全身都是可怕的 疮,没有人知道如何医治他们。你觉得这些麻风病人最 想要的是什么?毫无疑问,他们最想要的是得医治!耶 稣看见他们,就说:"你们去把身体给祭司察看吧。"这 十个人都明白这句话的意思——即是耶稣要医治他们。 在那年代,只有祭司有权宣告一个人的麻风病是否痊 愈。看看接下来所发生的事——<u>那十个人在去找祭司的</u> 路上他们的病就好了。哇,你看到了吗?他们甚至不需 要等到找到祭司,还在路上时他们就得了医治。



想象一下那该有多奇妙!哇!但故事并没有到此就结 束了。其中有一个麻风病人,见自己已经痊愈了,就转 身回到耶稣那里,他大声赞美神,且俯伏在耶稣脚前感 谢耶稣说:"谢谢你!"他知道耶稣已经治好了他,他非 常感激耶稣的良善。等一下,不是有十个麻风病人痊愈 了吗?另外九个人在哪里?<u>十个人被治愈,但只有一个</u> 人回来感谢耶稣。



耶稣对那人说:"起来,走吧!你的信心使你康复了(your faith made you well)。" 让我们仔细 看看 made you well 这个英文短语,这个短语的意思让我们知道:他的病好了。被一种这么可怕的 疾病所摧残,尤其是大家都心知肚明麻风病是无法治愈的,在这种情况下,身体能痊愈已经是一 件令人惊讶而神奇事了!但神的祝福远远不止于此。 这个故事出于《新约》年代,最初并不是用 英语写的,它是用希腊文写的。在最初的希腊文本中,这个短语 made you well 是希腊文 "sozo"。

"sozo"的意思不仅仅是"使你康复","sozo"<u>的意思是</u> 得拯救(saved, rescued)、得治愈(healed)、得复原 (restored)和得完整健全(made whole)。让我们停一下,想 一想,十个麻风病人向耶稣哭喊要得医治,但只有那个 回来说"谢谢"的麻风病人得到了不仅仅是身体上的治 愈。路加福音17章19节告诉我们,他看见了主的良善, 回来感谢主,便得到拯救:心灵上得到修复,家庭变得 幸福,人生完满(sozo-ed)。这意味着他找回了他失去的东 西,他现在可以回家和家人朋友在一起了。他恢复了完 整健全的人生,一切都恢复了正常,都完好无缺了。 哇!当这位麻风病人感谢神对他如此好的时候,神祝福 他得到更多!



接下来,让我告诉你有一位先生失去了对于他来说非常珍贵的东西。 这位先生是一位音乐家, 他很多时间都是呆在在录音室里。几年前,他的身体出了点问题,他的左耳受损以至这个耳朵失 去了听力。尽管他再也听不清楚了,他还是继续请求神医治他。每天,当他领受圣餐时,他都会 感谢神帮助他恢复听力。



有一天,他的妻子有感动和受圣灵的带领,她把她的手指放在她先生的左耳上,并以耶稣的 名宣告他痊愈和完全康复。在那之后,他感到耳朵里有一种刺痛的感觉,能更好地听到一点点了。 他继续感谢神他的医治已经在发生。一个星期后,正当他开车去吃饭的时候,他的左耳突然"卟" 一声通了,他对妻子喊道:"哇,现在一切都很吵啊,我的左耳和右耳都能听到了,赞美我们大能 的主耶稣基督!"



孩子们,我们今天学到了什么?我们学习了感谢我们良善而奇妙的神是多么好的事!翻到诗 篇第 118 章第 1 节是如此说的:"你们要称谢耶和华,因祂本为善,祂的慈爱永远长存!"当我们 认识到神对我们有多好时,感谢神是一件自然且容易的事。我们可以为我们的家人和朋友感谢神。 我们可以感谢神使我们有瓦遮头,给我们住的地方。我们可以感谢神赐予我们美好的天气,这样 我们就可以出去玩了。但是,当我们处于根本看不到任何值得感激的事的日子里的时候,我们还 能感恩吗?答案是肯定的!感谢不仅仅是对发生在你身边的好的事情的回应,感谢更像是持有一 种感恩的心态。 当我们拥有"感恩的心态"时,无论遇到什么事,我们都能快乐和感激。或许你在学校的时 光并不是那么顺利,或许你的朋友对你不是那么好。除了祈祷神帮助我们以外,你也可以开始感 恩: 感谢主赐给我所需要的智慧,感谢主使我得到朋友们的好感,感谢主聆听和回应我的祷告! 当我们说"谢谢你"的时候,我们会增强我们的感恩态度。我们感谢的越多,就越能看见神所赐 给我们的祝福。当我们有一种感恩的心态时,我们就会越少感叹"哦,糟了!"或"哦,我的天 哪!"因为我们知道我们良善的神一定会照顾好我们!

孩子们,这周安排一个挑战给你:就是<u>向周围的人表达你的感激之情</u>。选择两三个你要感谢 的人,寻找一种方式使他们知道你很感激他们。你可以写便条,或做一张"感谢卡",或者给他们 你自己画的画或自己做的手工作品,同时,为自己列一张"感谢清单"。每天,至少写下五件你要 感激的事情。一周结束时,看看你是否能写出至少 35 件不同的让你感恩的事情,可以是你喜欢的, 只要是你觉得有意义的事,你都可以把它加到你的清单上。我们属于一个良善的天父上帝,这个 星期,让我们以感谢我们的天父来开始和结束我们的每一天。为什么要这样做呢?是因为事情总 是顺利的吗?不是的!我们感谢神,不是因为所有事都是好的,而是因为神总是对我们好!所有 的孩子们一起说"阿门!"





孩子们,如果你正在听这个故事,你从来没有邀请耶稣进入你的生命,成为你的主 和救主,你现在可以这样做,跟着我重复这个祷告:"亲爱的主耶稣,感谢你为我死在十 字架上。你是神的儿子,你死了,也被埋葬,第三天又复活了。你宝血洗去了我所有的 罪,使我得以永远与阿爸天父在一起。我请求你现在进入我的生命里,成为我的主和救 主,我永远是个义人,永远是有福的,永远是神的孩子。奉耶稣的名,阿门!"

FOR HE IS GOOD

Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. –Psalm 118:1 NKJV

Hey, Rock kidz, let's start with a game. Can you unscramble these letters and figure out what they are? You have 5 seconds and your time starts ... now! Time's up! Let's see how many of you got this right. Easy, right?

Now, how about this one? Here's clue for you. it means the same as the first word, and it's not in English! If you are in Singapore, you will have no trouble figuring it out. Did you get it right? 'Xie xie' means 'thank you' in Chinese!

Now let's level up. For this next one, you only get 3 seconds to figure it out. Again, it means the same thing and the clue is this ... you'll hear this said more in Texas, USA than in Singapore! Here we go! How many of you said 'gracias' which is 'thank you' in Spanish? No matter what language you speak, 'thank you' is one of the earliest words young children are taught to say. In Korea, little kids are taught to say 'gamsahanida'. And all the way over in France, children learn to say 'merci'. And if they wanted to say 'thank you very much', they say 'mercy beaucoup'. "Mercy beaucoup, papa!" "Mercy beaucoup, maman!" 'Thank you' is such a simple but important thing for us to say. Saying 'thank you' is not just about having good manners. Saying 'thank you' is a way of letting the other person know that you appreciate what they have done for you!

Today's Bible lesson starts with a group of men who very likely did not have anyone who did anything for them at all. These men were lepers. During Bible times, lepers were not welcome anywhere they went. This was because the disease that they had, called leprosy, was so contagious that no one could go near them in case they got sick as well. Not even their own family or friends! So sad!

Luke 17 tells us that Jesus was going into a village one day when a group of leppers of lepers met Him. There were ten of them, standing at a distance, crying, "Jesus! Master, have mercy on us! Help us!" The poor lepers had terrible sores all over bodies that no one knew how to cure. What do you suppose these lepers wanted more than anything else? That's right. They wanted to be healed! So, when Jesus looked at them and said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." the ten lepers understood what this meant. It meant that Jesus was going to heal them! You see, during that time, only the priest had the power to decide if a person was healed from leprosy or not. Look what happened next: "While the ten men were going, they were healed." Whoa! Did you see that? They didn't even have to wait until they got to the priests! They were healed while they were still on the way.

Imagine how amazing that must have been! Wow! But the story doesn't end there. One of the lepers, seeing that he had been healed from this horrible disease, turned around and went back to Jesus. He praised God with a loud voice and bowed down at Jesus' feet. "Thank You!" said the man. "Thank You!" he knew that Jesus had Healed him and he was so grateful to Jesus for His goodness. Now wait a minute ... weren't there ten lepers who were healed? Where were the other nine? Ten were healed, but only one returned to thank Jesus.

Then Jesus said to this man: "Stand up and go; faith has made you well." Let's take a closer look at this phrase "made you well". When we read it in English like this, we think "oh, at first he was sick, and then he was not sick anymore". Getting healed from the terrible sickness that destroyed his body was an amazing and wonderful thing, especially when everyone knew that there was no cure for leprosy But guess what? The New Testament, where this story is from, was not originally written in English. It was written in Greek. In the original Greek text, the phrase is written as one word, "sozo". "Sozo" means more than just "made you well". "Sozo" means to save, rescue, restore, heal and to be made whole. Stop and

think about this for a moment ... Ten lepers who cried out to Jesus got healed but the one leper who came back to say 'thank you' got much more than just healing in his body. Luke 17:19 tells us that the man who saw how good the Lord was to him was 'sozo-ed'. He was saved and rescued from a helpless and hopeless life filled with sickness and sadness. He got the miracle healing he needed. He was also restored, which means he got back what he had lost. He could now go back home to be with his family and friends. He was made whole, everything was good again with nothing missing or broken here, or here. Wow! When the leper thanked the Lord for being so good to him, the Lord blessed him with the much more!

Let me tell you about a man who lost something that was very precious to him. This man was a musician and spent lots of time in recording studios. Several years ago, something went wrong in the studio. His left ear became damaged and he lost his hearing in that ear. Even though he could not hear properly anymore, he continued to ask God to heal him. Every day, as he took the holy Communion, he would thank God for restoring his hearing.

One day, his wife felt led to place her finger in his left ear and declare that it was healed and fully restored in Jesus' name. After that, he felt a tingle in his ear and could hear a little better. He continued to thank the Lord that his healing was already taking place. One week later, as he was driving to dinner, his left ear suddenly popped open! He exclaimed to his wife, "Wow! Everything is so loud now. I can hear from both my left and right ear! Praise our wonderful Lord Jesus Christ!"

Hey Rock Kidz, what did we learn today? We learned that it is good to give thanks to our good and amazing God! Psalm 118: 1 says, go ahead and highlight this as well: "Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For his mercy endures forever." Giving thanks to the Lord is a natural and easy thing to do when we realize just how good He already is to us. We can thank God for our families and friends. We can thank God for the roof over our heads, for giving us a place to stay. We can thank God for beautiful weather, so that we can go outside play. But we happened on those days when we just don't see anything to be thankful for at all? Can we still give thanks? Yes. You see, being thankful is not simply a reaction to good things happening around you. being thankful is more like having attitude of gratitude.

When we have an 'attitude of gratitude', we can be cheerful and thankful no matter what comes our way. Maybe you're having a hard time at school. Maybe your friends are not very nice to you. instead of just praying to be rescued, "Oh please Lord, help me!", you can also start to give thanks. "Thank You Lord for giving me the wisdom that I need. Thank You Lord for giving me favour with my friends. Thank you Lord that You hear me and You will answer me!" When we say 'thank you', we power up on our attitude of gratitude. The more we give thanks, the more we see what the Lord has already given us. When we have an attitude of gratitude, the less we have to go, "Oh no!" or "Oh dear!" because we know that our good, good God will surely take good care of us.

Rock Kidz, here's a challenge for you this week. Show your appreciation for the people around you. pick two or three people that you are thankful for, and find a way to let them know that you are appreciate them. You can write note, make a 'thank you' card or give them something you drew or made yourself. Also, start a "thankful list" for yourself. Every day, write down at least five things that you are thankful for. By the end of the week, see if you can come up with at least 35 different things that you are thankful for. It can be for anything you like. If you mean it, you can add it to your list. We belong to a good, good God. This week, let's start and end our days with giving thanks to the Lord. Why? because things are always good? No. We give thanks to the Lord because He is always good to us. And all the Rock Kidz say, "Amen!"

Hey Rock Kidz, if you are listening to this story and you've never asked Jesus to come into your life to be your Lord and Saviour, you can do so now. Just repeat this prayer after me, "Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross for me. You are the Son of God, who died, was buried

and on the third day, you rose again. Your precious blood washed away all my sins making me forever right with Daddy God. I ask You now to come into my life to be my Lord and Saviour. I am forever righteous, forever blessed, forever a child of God. In Jesus'name," and everyone say, "Amen."