

Luke 17:1-19

Great Expectations

Scripture: Luke 17:1-19

Memory Verse: John 14:15 *“If you love Me, keep My commandments.”*

Lesson Focus: Jesus has many expectations of His followers. In this passage we get into some of the nitty-gritty of what He expects of Christians. While we will challenge the kids to listen and obey, we will also bring them back to the gospel. For it is because of His great love for us that we desire to please Him by keeping His commandments.

Activities and Crafts: Grateful Leper coloring picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st/2nd Grade: Stop the Spread Sign

Starter Activity: High vs. Low Expectations

Consider getting the lesson started by sharing a few scenarios with kids and then asking them in each scenario whether they would have high or low **expectations**. Before sharing a scenario, first make sure the kids know what you mean!

Q: What do you **expect** to happen around Christmas time? A: Celebration/presents!

Q: What do you **expect** to happen at church today? A: Singing & reading the Bible. *

We call these **expectations**. Something is coming up and you are **expecting** certain things to happen. If we are really excited, we would call that having **high expectations** and if we aren't, we would call that having **low expectations**.

Let me share a few situations with you and I'd like to know whether you would have **high expectations** or **low expectations** (opinions may vary!). **Teachers:** Consider bringing in a yardstick or a tape measure and invite volunteers to come up and point out how “high” or “low” their expectations would be. *

- 1) Your family is planning to go to Disneyland over Spring Break.
- 2) You go to the grocery store with your Mom to help her get food. *
- 3) A blizzard is forecasted for Monday morning (potentially closing school).
- 4) A new kid your age just moved into the neighborhood down the street.
- 5) Your family is moving to a new house in a different city.
- 6) You are going to see a new Star Wars movie that was just released.

As we continue in our study of Luke today, we are going to see that Jesus actually has some **expectations** of Christians: those who love Him and follow Him. Do you think His **expectations** of us believers in Him are high or low? Let's take a look!

Bible Study:

Luke 17:1a: Well, looks like Jesus starts this passage off with some **LOW expectations** of His disciples when He admits they will still stumble or “sin”! This is certainly not an excuse to sin but reminds us of how gracious and merciful He is towards us and how we must practice repentance daily in our walk with Him! *

Luke 17:1b-2: But He does have **HIGH expectations** of us NOT to lead others into sin!

Q: What are some things that are contagious? A: Sickesses like colds, COVID, flu, etc.

Q: And when you get sick why do you stay home and in your room? A: Not only so that you will get better, but so that you don’t give it to anyone else!!!

Boys and Girls: In the same way, sin is a sickness that is most contagious. * When you lead others to sin, they are likely to “catch it” and then lead others to sin and continue the “spread”! (**Teachers:** Consider sharing an age-appropriate story from your childhood where you may have led others into sin and how sorry you are for it now) *

Luke 17:3a: We are to take heed or “be on the alert” because sometimes it might even be a Christian friend of ours that is spreading the sickness of sin to us!

Q: What does it mean to rebuke someone? A: It’s like saying STOP! Jesus **expects** you to love them enough to tell them what they are doing is **WRONG!** *

Luke 17:3b: Our goal is not to embarrass or hurt them, but because we care about them we encourage them to repent and “stop the spread” of sin. (**Teachers:** Consider role-playing this with a few volunteers. Invite a few kids up and pretend to be the Christian friend whispering into their ear to “steal a cookie” or “cheat on a test” or “watch bad movies”, etc. Then have each kid say “STOP THE SPREAD” to you!) *

Luke 17:4: Not only does Jesus **expect** us to “stop the spread”, but He also **expects** us to forgive. Why? Because if you believe in Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection, then all of YOUR sins are forgiven! Multiple times in our study of Luke He has taught His followers that they are to forgive as they have been forgiven (**see Luke 6:37, 11:4**).

Luke 17:5-6: These are indeed some **great expectations** from Jesus of His followers! Jesus’s closest followers realize this and rightly ask Him to help them trust in Him more and more. But Jesus’s reply shows that it is genuineness of faith that matters. * *Great faith* in God is not as important as faith in a *great God!*

Luke 17:7-10: Jesus wraps up this section with a story that teaches us about duty. This is something you all are familiar with for you all have various duties.

Q: What are some of the chores that are assigned to you? It is your “duty” to do these things. These are the **expectations** of simply living in your house! And just as your parents **expect** you to faithfully do your chores (without rewards), Jesus **expects** you to be faithfully following Him as a child of God! *

Why? Because of love! (**John 14:15**). Jesus loves us and to show our love for Him, we keep His commandments. Not to impress Him, but because we want to please Him! *

Luke 17:11: Jesus is on the move and in this next section, we are going to learn about one more **expectation** that He has of us.

Luke 17:12: Jesus enters a village where certain men met Him “standing afar off”.

Q: Why were these men standing afar off from Jesus? A: Because they had a serious skin disease. Remember earlier in the lesson we talked about “stopping the spread”? * In Jesus’s day, it was required by law to “stop the spread” of skin diseases like this so they had to be isolated (like COVID quarantine!) from people.

Luke 17:13: Apparently, they knew who Jesus was and maybe even heard about some of the miracles that He had already done to approach Him in this way! (see **Luke 5:12-13**) *

Notice how they addressed Him as “Master”!

Q: What does it mean to call someone Master? A: It means you acknowledge their authority! They believe He has the power to heal them and they ask Him for mercy. *

Luke 17:14a: And as Master He gives the orders! But this is probably not the response they were hoping for, especially since they could not go to the priests still sick! Jesus is certainly testing their faith in Him! *

Luke 17:14b: But they obey and as they obey, they are miraculously healed! Jesus didn’t even touch them! Imagine being one of these lepers on your way wondering what the priests are going to say and you suddenly realized you were healed! *

Luke 17:15-16: One of them in particular noticed and couldn’t help but return to Jesus.

Q: Why? A: To personally give Jesus thanks! He wanted to show Jesus how grateful he truly was for the kindness that He showed him. *

Luke 17:17-18: But what about the other nine? Apparently, they were so thrilled with the gift of healing that they forgot to thank the Giver of the gift! This is the final **expectation** that Jesus has for us in our lesson today. That we also be thankful for all He has given us!

Before we are too hard on these other nine, let’s examine our own hearts! How often do we forget to thank God for food, for shelter, for health, for friends, and most importantly for His grace apart from which none of us would be saved! *

Luke 17:19: Jesus sends him off with an additional special blessing over his soul. Not only was he healed of his sickness, but Jesus now appears to forgive his sins. First his body was washed of sickness and now his soul is also washed of the sickness of sin!

Key Point: At the beginning of our lesson we asked what Jesus’s **expectations** are for us. I think we’ve seen that they are quite high, **great expectations** even! * He **expects** us to stop the spread of sin, be quick to forgive, and to be thankful and faithful with our duties.

But let’s remember why. Why? **John 14:15.** We remember His love for us. A love we don’t deserve. Jesus’s death and resurrection made a way for us to be saved and our trust in Him washes our sins away. He becomes our Master and He **expects** us to lovingly follow Him! With grateful hearts, let’s make every effort to please Him this week! *

BRING IT HOME

Read Luke 17:13-14
How did Jesus test
the faith of these
lepers?

Parent Signature:

Parent Challenge:
What are some of Jesus's
expectations of us as
Christians?

Read Luke 17:15-16
What are some things
that you can thank
God for?

