1. **Luke 5:12-16**

* According to the **Gospel,** where was the leper Jesus healed? Was the leper inside the town or apart from the town outside?
* **Numbers 5:1-4, Leviticus 13:40-46**
* According to the **Old Testament,** should this leper be in town where Jesus is or outside the town in a deserted area apart from others?
* What should the leper be yelling if anyone comes near him to warn them of his illness so they can avoid becoming “unclean”?
* **Haggai 2:12-14**
* According to the reading in **Haggai**, when you touch anything that is unclean, what happens to you?
* Did Jesus touching the leper make him unclean? Why or why not?
* **Leviticus 14:1-9**
* Did the man Jesus healed follow the instructions in **Leviticus 14** as Jesus asked him to?
* Why do you think Jesus asked the leper not to tell anyone?
* **Mark 1:45**
* According to the ending of this story in **Mark**, what was a consequence that occurred due to the man not following Jesus’ directions to “not tell anyone”?
* Reflect on the Leper’s situation after the miracle (the leper can now enter the town freely and be around others) and Jesus’ situation (it is now impossible for Jesus to enter the town, so he remains “outside” in “deserted places”) and state whether this reveals any sort of message to you about what Jesus does for us today?
* Do you know of any other lepers who were healed in the **Old Testament**?
* **2 Kings 5:1-14, Numbers 12:1-16**
* What is the difference between the **Old Testament** healings and the healing in the **New Testament**?
* **St. Ephrem** (306 AD – 373 AD) *Commentary on Tatian’s Diatessaron 12.21*

“Showing himself clean was for the sake of the priest. For the leper was afraid to touch Jesus lest he defile him. But the Lord touched him to show him that He would not be defiled, He, at whose rebuke the defilement fled from the defiled one.”

* **St. Ambrose** (339 AD – 397 AD) *Exposition of The Gospel of Luke 5.5 & 5.6*

“For why is none enjoined to speak, save **to teach that our acts of kindness are not to be made known**, but concealed, **so that we abstain from reward** not only of **money**, but also of **grace**? Or, perhaps, the reason for that command of silence is that He thought them **better who had believed through willing faith**, rather than through **expected benefits**.”

*Second Quote out of Context*

“The Law **forbade that Lepers be touched**, but He Who is Lord of the Law does not obey the Law, but **makes the Law**. So, He did not touch him because He could not cleanse without touching, but **in order to prove that He was not subject to the Law**; nor did He fear contagion, as do men, and **He Who set others free could not be defiled**, yet at the same time the leprosy which defiled whoever it touched was put to flight at the Lord’s touch.”

* **St. Cyril of Alexandria** (378 AD – 444 AD) *Commentary on Luke Sermon 12*

”Even though the leper had been silent, the very nature of the fact was enough to proclaim to all who knew him how great was His power Who had wrought the cure. But **He bids him tell no man**, and why? That **they who receive from God the gift of working cures** may hereby **learn not to look for the applause** of those whom they have healed, **nor indeed anyone’s praises whatsoever**, lest they **fall prey to pride**, of all vices the most disgraceful.”

* Share something that was meaningful to you or a message you felt strongly revealed to you during this study with the group.