

Sunday, February 14

In today's reading Jesus heals a leper. A leper is a person who has a disease called Leprosy. This was a serious illness that caused ugly sores on your skin and spread easily. In the days when Jesus walked the earth, lepers were forced to live together outside the towns, often in caves. They relied on their families for food and other supplies. If a leper came near town, they needed to call out "unclean" or ring a bell if they had one. No one wanted to come near a leper which is why what Jesus does in this reading so special.

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Mark 1:40-45 A leper came to Jesus and begged Jesus to heal him. Jesus stretched out his hands and touched him saying, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leper was made clean-cured of his disease. Jesus told him to go and show himself to no one but the priest. But this man did not just tell the priest, he told all he met. Jesus was now meet with large crowds in every town he entered. Even when Jesus stayed in deserted places, the people kept coming to him. The Word of the Lord.

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The people who lived in Galilee had been waiting for the Messiah(that God had promised them) for hundreds of years. Many were expecting a soldier or warrior to lead them, so they did not at first accept this mild-mannered, peaceful man. When Jesus began healing people, performing miracles and preaching, more and more people came to see him. A few weeks ago you heard that Jesus called Simon, Andrew, James and John to follow him, to listen to his words. These men and others were in training. Jesus knew that after his death these men would take what he taught them and spread it to others. This Church that Jesus started is still standing. You are part of that Church. You are called to love others, help others, pray for others and to love yourself and work to be the best you can be.

Today is Valentine's Day, a day when we celebrate love. You show love in many ways. In big ways like my nephew donating one of his kidneys to his dad, that is love. More often people show their love in small ways like parents attending all their kids' games, that is love. A mom making a

special meal for her child's birthday, that is love. A kid cleaning his room without being asked, that is love. A kid raking up leaves in her neighbor's yard, that is love. Grand-kids FaceTiming their grandparents, that is love. Love is kind, love is generous, love is priceless. Jesus has asked us to love one another.

See how many times you can find the word LOVE in the puzzle.

L	O	V	E	O	T	H	E	R	S	A	E	I	O	U
B	C	D	F	G	H	J	K	L	M	N	P	L	Q	R
S	T	V	W	X	Y	Z	B	O	C	U	D	O	F	G
H	E	J	K	L	M	P	N	V	Q	E	R	V	S	T
V	V	W	L	X	L	O	V	E	Y	V	Z	E	A	I
P	O	I	E	O	U	Y	T	A	R	O	E	W	Q	L
A	L	S	V	D	V	F	G	L	H	L	J	K	O	O
L	M	E	O	N	B	E	V	W	C	X	Z	V	Z	V
A	Q	W	L	S	X	C	D	A	E	R	E	F	V	E
B	G	T	Y	H	N	M	J	Y	U	I	K	L	O	U
B	E	L	O	V	E	D	P	S	W	E	V	O	L	Z

