

## Resources

for your church

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### What is Leprosy?

Many people are unaware that leprosy still exists. Yet this disease, along with other little-known diseases, are still a threat to thousands of children, women and men.

The severe wounds of leprosy are unsightly – debilitating damage to the fingers, toes and parts of the face. Individuals with leprosy are often forced out of their families and communities because the disease is intensely feared. Some people still believe that leprosy is a curse from the gods for misdeeds.

But the truth is that leprosy attacks the nervous system, causing the extremities of the body to lose their sense of touch. As leprosy takes hold of the body, the person doesn't feel any pain. Cuts, burns and severe wounds go untreated because they cause no pain. Infection sets in and, left untreated, the person can experience bone loss. The infection may be so severe that the limb or digit requires amputation.

Today we know that leprosy can be CURED!

Yes, with the proper treatment, people can be cured of the disease and spared from a life of disability if medical help is received quickly. With your help, through World Leprosy Day, we can replace fear with hope for the future. Together, we can offer a healthy, happy life beyond leprosy.

**The cost to cure 1 person is \$99... How many people can your congregation cure?**

### Why must we go to the ends of the earth?

Many diseases, like leprosy, have been forgotten by other organizations. The communities we work in are often rural and hidden from wealthy urban centres. These families live on the margins of society and cannot access the care they need to overcome disease. Sadly, those who can travel to government hospitals are often misdiagnosed or left untreated because the doctors are not trained in the specialized care required to cure leprosy.

Thousands of people look to effect:hope for the compassion and knowledge needed for a better future.

## Leprosy in the Bible

As you are aware, leprosy plays a key role many times throughout the Bible. Throughout the Old and New Testaments, we see examples of people being ostracized because of leprosy.

Please choose any of the following stories to share with your congregation on World Leprosy Day.

2 Kings 5:1-15 – Naaman is cured of leprosy.

Jeremiah 33:6 – Healing through God's abundant grace.

Matthew 10:8 – Jesus asks us all to heal those with leprosy.

Luke 17:11-19 – Ten men are healed of leprosy.

Matthew 8:1-4 – A man asks if Jesus is willing.

Mark 1:40-45 – The man who couldn't keep quiet.

## Pray for those with Leprosy

The people we care for often ask us to pray for them. There are many things that we cannot provide without the One true healer. Please remember to keep these children, women and men in your prayers and ask God to provide:

- The resources to reach people with leprosy and provide healing
- Comfort for those going through treatment
- Courage for people returning home after recovery
- A sense of belonging for those who have experienced hate and abandonment
- Strength and stamina for the doctors, nurses and support staff
- His love to extend from His people into the lives of all we serve