

EKids at home with your family: Sunday 21st Feb 2021

The King's Enemies. Mark 3:1-6

What you will need today:

•A bible, Colouring pencils, The activity sheets, Some card.



The Big Idea: the religious leaders set up a trap to try to accuse Jesus of breaking the law. Jesus heals a man on the Sabbath to show that it is lawful to do good On the Sabbath. This event sparks the beginning of Jesus' enemies plotting to kill him.



Aim: to see that Jesus came to give life and to do what's best for us, but some people hate him for that

The story so far...

In Ekids this term we've seen that Jesus is God's special Son come to save us. Through his miracles and teaching he has shown that he is both a powerful and loving king. He spends time with tax collectors and sinners- people that the religious leaders of the day looked down on. Why? Because God's amazing topsy-turvy kingdom isn't for the people who think they deserve it, but for the people who know that they don't.

In today's passage the religious leaders set up a trap to try to accuse Jesus of breaking their laws. The sad thing is, is that they care more about *their* laws than God's most important laws- to love God and to love others. AND, most sadly, their concern over petty laws blinds them from seeing the truth right in front of them: God himself- Jesus- offering them his friendship. These events lead to the religious leaders deciding to be enemies of Jesus, and plotting to kill him.

The Passage: Mark 3:1-6 NIV

¹Another time Jesus went into the synagogue, and a man with a shrivelled hand was there. ²Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. ³Jesus said to the man with the shrivelled hand, 'Stand up in front of everyone.'

⁴Then Jesus asked them, 'Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?' But they remained silent.

⁵He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored. ⁶Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.

Things to highlight:

The issue at hand – the 4th commandment says "remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." the religious leaders had added to this law a whole set of extra laws about lots of things that you were not allowed to do (including things like not doing your laundry or writing, cooking, gardening or lighting a fire amongst many others!)

Jesus' question is key to understanding this passage. The Sabbath day is a day gifted to God's people for them to rest from work and to enjoy God and his creation. But the religious leaders had become more interested in their rules than in the actual point of the sabbath- loving God and his creation! By healing the man, Jesus shows that he cares about God's people, and that doing good and helping others is a good thing to do any day of the week.

The crazy thing is that whilst the religious leaders are accusing Jesus of breaking the law, they plan to break the law themselves (6th commandment: Do not murder) on exactly the same day! The Sabbath! Not only this, but their hard hearts prevent them from accepting Jesus' offer of friendship and life – the one and only that really matters, and the one and only thing they really need!

Pebbles and Rocks:

Retelling the passage and explaining it:

Today's true bible story takes place in God's house on the 7th day of the week- the day called the Sabbath.

A man with a poorly hand in the synagogue where Jesus was, needed healing. The religious leaders were watching Jesus closely, looking for a way to accuse him of doing something wrong.

The religious leaders at the time had come up with lots of rules about what you were and weren't allowed to do on the Sabbath. These were not in the bible, but they had made them into their own laws. They were hoping that Jesus would break one of their laws so that they could accuse him of not being God's son.

When Jesus saw them watching him, and saw the man with the poorly hand, Jesus asked them – does God say that we are allowed to do good things or bad things on the Sabbath? Am I allowed to save life, or to kill on the sabbath? But they wouldn't answer him because they cared more about their rules than helping the man with the poorly hand.

Saddened and angered by how little they cared for the man, Jesus told him to stand up, and in front of everyone Jesus healed him.

Then the religious leaders decided to be enemies of Jesus and went out to think about how they could kill him.

What's going on here:

The religious leaders (who were supposed to look after God's people) should have shown love and concern for the man with the poorly hand. Instead they were more interested in trying to catch Jesus out than caring about him. In the process they totally miss who Jesus is and what he is offering them

The bible does not say that we are not allowed to do good things on the Sabbath. Jesus was doing **good** on the Sabbath, he was healing and giving life to people! But the bible does say that we shouldn't do wrong things on the sabbath, or on any other day of the week! And yet the religious leaders were doing **wrong** on the Sabbath- they were trying to trap Jesus at the beginning of the story, and then were even plotting to kill him by the end!

Even though Jesus brings life and came to save us, there will always be people who don't like him. The religious leaders didn't like him because he broke one of their laws, but there are plenty of other reasons that people have today for not wanting to be friends with Jesus. can you think of any?

Prayer ideas: spend some time thinking of people you know who currently aren't friends with Jesus. Why don't you spend some time asking God to change their hearts so that they will love Jesus and want to follow him.

Thank Jesus for healing the man with the poorly arm and for loving us so much that he was willing to have enemies who would kill him, so that we can be his friends forever!

Activities:

- Make a hand prayer book (see below)
- TnT activity A miracle hand
- TnT activity B colouring story strip

*Contact helen.hawley@bramcote.church for the TnT activity sheets if you are accessing these resources from the website. *

Bounders and Rip Rap:

Think about: what do you think we should or shouldn't do on the Sabbath? (Sunday for us) what do you think the Sabbath is for?

Read the passage:

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Look up Exodus 20:8-11. Do you think that helping other people should be counted as work? Why/why not?

both verse 4 and verse 6 happen on the same day- the Sabbath. Who is actually breaking God's law? (see commandment number 6, Exodus 20: 13)

Jesus wonderfully shows us that he had come to save life and to do good during his time on earth. And because he gave his life for us on the cross, we no longer are bound by rules but are also free to do good every day of the week!

When might we be tempted to be like the pharisees and harden our hearts to Jesus or to others?

Even though Jesus brings life and came to save us, there will always be people who don't like him. The religious leaders didn't like him because he broke one of their laws, but there are plenty of other reasons that people have today for not wanting to be friends with Jesus. can you think of any?

Prayer: spend some time thinking of people you know who currently aren't friends with Jesus? Why don't you spend some time asking God to change their hearts so that they will love Jesus and want to follow him.

Thank Jesus for healing the man with the poorly arm and for loving us so much that he was willing to have enemies who would kill him, so that we can be his friends forever!

Activities

- TnT worksheets (C) Boulders, (D) RipRap
- Hand prayer book or bookmark.

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Hand prayer book

Seeing as the man in our story had his hand healed by Jesus, I thought we could use our hands in our craft time today to be praying for people to be friends with Jesus.

Instructions:

1. Draw around your hand on piece of paper – this will be your template
2. Use your template to cut out a few hands (you can make as many as you like!) to make the pages of your book
3. Use a hole puncher to put two holes in the side of your hand and tie through a piece of string or ribbon to hold your pages together
4. Get writing on each page- you can draw pictures, make lists, or write prayers for different people.
5. Use this book to spend some time with God praying for people who aren't yet friends with Jesus- that they would soften their hearts and come to know him as their friend and saviour.
6. (Boulders and RipRap might want to make a hand bookmark with a longer prayer for a friend on the back instead of a book.)



Instructions for TnT activities:

Activity A

You will need:

- The sheet printed out
 - A lollipop stick
 - Scissors
 - Colouring crayons
 - Glue dots or selotape
1. Cut out the two hands
 2. colour in both hands and then scrunch up the hand that has no text on it.
 3. Straighten the scrunched up hand out a little and then attached both hands back to back with the lollipop stick between them.
 4. The children flip the stick around to show the man's hand before and after Jesus healed him.

Activity B

You will need:

- The sheet printed out
 - Scissors
 - Colouring crayons
 - glue
1. cut the page as marked and paste the blank block to the left of the Pharisees over the grey block to the right of the man with the withered hand to form one long strip.
 2. colour in the pictures.
 3. fold the picture strip as indicated. Apply glue to secure the two Pharisee pictures back to back. Do the same for the two pictures of the man Jesus healed. (parents may need to help with this! It's a bit confusing!)
 4. As you turn the man with the withered hand over to reveal the healed hand, the picture of the Pharisees will also change to include their murderous thoughts.