

## Unit 26, Session 6: Jesus Healed a Man's Hand

*Matthew 12:9-14; Mark 3:1-6; Luke 6:6-11*

### Christ Connection:

**Preschool:** Jesus healed a man's hand on the Sabbath even though the religious leaders thought He shouldn't. Jesus showed that God gives us rules to help us, not to hurt us. The religious leaders made a plan to kill Jesus, but God planned to use Jesus' death to help people by saving them from their sin.

**Kids:** Jesus showed that God's laws were meant to help people, not to hurt them. Jesus acted in love, even on the Sabbath. The religious leaders planned to kill Jesus. They did not know Jesus was going to die to show God's love to the whole world. God provided forgiveness and salvation through Jesus' death on the cross.

**Adult Connection Point:** Jesus' healing of the man's hand on the Sabbath highlighted the difference between His ministry and that of the Pharisees. Jesus' ministry was done in kingdom power toward the service of others while the Pharisees threw around their religious weight to assert their moral superiority over others. Jesus pointedly asked the question, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do what is good or to do what is evil, to save life or to destroy it?" Jesus realized that the Sabbath was made for human flourishing, not to prevent it. Between the Pharisees and Jesus, we see the contrast between worldly and kingdom power. In fact, the Pharisees plotted how to kill Jesus as a result of this event (see Matt. 12:9-14; Mark 3:1-6).

Jesus is the King who willingly died for His people. In His death and resurrection, we see the difference between the power of the world and the power of the kingdom. Because the power of God's kingdom comes from God and is established through Christ's sacrifice, we are freely given life.

Oh, the beauty of the cross! For the Jewish leaders, this crucifixion would prove this King was nothing more than a lowly criminal. For Jesus, this crucifixion would prove the love of an innocent King dying in the place of lowly sinners. The tool the Romans and religious leaders used to kill Jesus in order to maintain their positions of power was the very tool Jesus used to overcome the deadly consequences of humanity's quest for power. Consider the "His Mission, Your Mission" quote below in view of this discussion.

### *His Mission, Your Mission:*

"Here is Jesus. He is the Creator, the Savior, and the King of Kings. And now the one who had everything, made himself nothing. He, who had the world at his feet, chose to come and wash the feet of the world."

—Kyle Idleman, *Not a Fan* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011), 160.

### Family Devotion:

Materials: soccer ball, sticks (or stakes)

Create a boundary around your front or back yard with the sticks. Instruct the kids to stay within the boundaries while you play soccer. After a few minutes of playing, discuss why the boundaries are needed for the game.

Hold your devotional outside or go inside to review the Bible story.

Ask: "What example did Jesus give when the Pharisees asked him if it was okay to heal on the Sabbath?"

Comment that Jesus told a story of how the religious leaders would assist a sheep who had fallen in a ditch and get it to safety on the Sabbath, but they did not think it right to heal a man. "A man is more important than a sheep," Jesus said. He was showing them through this illustration that God's laws were meant to help people, not hurt them, even on the Sabbath.

Ask: "How did the leaders respond after Jesus healed the man with the paralyzed hand?"

Comment how the leaders were angry with Jesus for healing the man's hand. Not only were the religious leaders angry, but they were planning to kill Him. They did not realize this was part of God's plan, though. Jesus would have to die to show God's love for the whole world.

Pray, thanking God for providing forgiveness and salvation through Jesus' death on the cross.