

JESUS HEALS ON THE SABBATH

INTRODUCTION & GAME

GAME: DOCTOR, DOCTOR

The aim of this game is simple – a volunteer doctor will have to diagnose the different problems in each of the patients within a certain time frame.

HOW TO PLAY

The group should be sitting in a circle or facing each other – the volunteer doctor should then leave the circle and stand at a distance so they can neither see nor hear the group. The remaining group members are the patients.

The patients must decide what is wrong with each of them – don't take it too seriously and see examples below for fun ideas to get you started.

Example: someone thinks they are a chicken, and can only respond with clucking or rooster crows.

Example: Someone thinks they are Donald Trump, and can only respond as best they think he would

Example: Someone is deaf, so they cannot understand what the doctor is asking unless it is acted out.

Once decided, the Doctor comes back and has 3 minutes to diagnose as many of the patients as possible. The winner is the doctor who diagnoses the most patients in the given time.

MARK 3:1-6

Another time Jesus went into the synagogue, and a man with a shrivelled hand was there. Some 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. Jesus said to the man with the shrivelled hand, **“Stand up in front of everyone.”**

Then 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.

He 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. Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.

THEN

Why does the passage start with “another time Jesus went into the Synagogue?”

- Jesus custom was to enter town and go to the Synagogue
- Jesus was in the places where the people were (on a mission)

Who are “some of them” who are looking to accuse Jesus?

- Pharisees (v.6)
- Men of faith, that in Judaism represent God's law and communicate with him on behalf of the people

What does it mean by accuse?

- Trying to find Fault, to make a claim against someone's actions or character

What is Jesus being accused of?

- Healing of the Sabbath, working on a day when you are not to be working

What is special about the Sabbath?

- Day of Rest, used to commune with God and be reminded of his great works

Why do "some of them" (the Pharisees) think healing on the Sabbath is wrong?

- Rules were created to ensure people obeyed the Law and had rest
- These Rules are not the Written Law, but a verbal law created by man

Why does Jesus ask "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil?"

- He is eluding to the fact that these men care more about the Verbal law, then they do God's will.
- He is even suggesting there actions, if not good, are in fact evil

We know they are - they are trying to accuse and kill Jesus instead of bringing people to God (Save people)

Does Jesus break the law during this passage?

- No
- The man stands on his own accord, and his hand is healed – only after he chooses to do as Jesus asks

NOW

What is the written Law these Pharisees and Jesus follow today?

- The Bible

How can we be like the Pharisees in this passage, regarding the Bible and its teachings?

- Do not study it, make up our own rules
- Lose sight of what is really important

What is wrong with when we just follow the rules?

- Miss the heart
- do not really change or understand why we are doing what we do

The Pharisees had the son of God in their presence, but were more concerned with manmade rules

What are the rules/manmade things that distract us from the truth?

- Open Discussion (Share your thoughts too)

APPLICATION

Our response to Jesus directly affects how much we learn and understand

Do the rules have the power to change people?

- Maybe, but not in the way God can or how they are supposed to

How do the Pharisees respond to this incident?

- run away to the Herodians and try to plot to kill Jesus

Do we respond like this when Jesus and the bible challenge our views?

What do we need to centre our view and beliefs on?

- the Truth, the bible and not our manmade religion
- and let God dictate our view of Christianity and how he wants to work.