

Life of Christ

Jesus Heals a Crippled Hand

Matthew 12:1-14

Younger Verse

Come to me, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28

Older Verse

Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28

Lesson Goals

Recognize that God set aside a day to worship Him
See that it is always the right time to help those in need
Learn that we can rest in God when we give Him our burdens

Welcome Time

Have you ever had a broken arm or wrist? What is it like not to be able to use your hand/arm for a while? Today we will learn how Jesus helped a man who could not use one hand.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible before teaching it. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Jesus and His disciples went to the synagogue. Remember, this was the place where the Jewish people worshipped God. This particular day, it was a **Sabbath** day. This was a very important day for God's people. They were to rest and worship God. However, the Pharisees had added to what God had required for the Sabbath. They created their own rules for people. This made it hard for people to do *anything on* the Sabbath!

The Pharisees had already criticized Jesus and His disciples for picking wheat and eating it on a Sabbath. Somehow, the Pharisees said it was work to pick *and* eat. Now, in the synagogue, they tried to trick Jesus again. When Jesus noticed a man with a crippled hand, the Pharisees asked Him if it was right to heal people on the Sabbath. They considered it work even to heal someone on the Sabbath!

Instead of answering the question, Jesus asked them a question. He said, "If you had a sheep that fell into a pit on a Sabbath, would you get it out?" Of course! Jesus helped the people know that a person was much more important to God than a sheep. Then, He told them that it was right to do good on a Sabbath day.

After He answered their question, He told the man to stretch out his crippled hand. When the man did this, a miracle happened! The man's hand was well!! It looked just like the other hand! Jesus had healed the man's hand.

The Pharisees were angry with Jesus. They went away and began to plan how they could kill Jesus. Sadly, they had seen Jesus do this and other miracles, and yet they did not believe in Him. They wanted people to be under their control. That is why they made so many extra rules for the people to follow. The Pharisees felt threatened by Jesus. They did not want to lose their control over the people's lives.

Jesus told the Pharisees that He was Master, even over the Sabbath. He knew it was right to help people in need, no matter what day it was.

Remember when Jesus healed the man who couldn't walk? The first thing Jesus told the man was that his sins were forgiven. The Pharisees didn't like that either, because Jesus showed His authority to forgive sins.

Ask: Is Jesus the Master of YOUR life? Romans 10:9 says that if you confess with your mouth "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. When we say that Jesus is our Lord, it means that He is our Master. We give Him control of our lives. Then He helps us by giving us His Holy Spirit to guide us.

In today's memory verse, Jesus tells us to come to Him. How do we come to Him? We need to confess our sins (tell Jesus we are sorry for the bad things we do). Then we pray and ask Him to come into our heart. Once we have Jesus in our lives, we come to Him by reading the Bible, going to church/Bible Study, and praying. We can give our worries and problems to Jesus, and *He* will give us rest.

Review Questions

1. What is a Sabbath day? (The day the Jews rested and worshipped God)
2. Why did the Pharisees criticize Jesus and His disciples for picking and eating wheat? (because it was on a Sabbath day and they considered this to be work)
3. What did Jesus do in the synagogue? (He healed a man with a crippled hand)
4. Why did the Pharisees get angry and plan to kill Jesus? (Jesus healed the man on a Sabbath day; He said He was Master of the Sabbath day)
5. How can we have rest from our problems? (by giving them to Jesus)

Prayer Time

Thank God that He gives us rest from our problems when we trust in Him. Pray that we will make Him the Lord and Master of our lives.

Life Application

Ask: Do you believe that Jesus has power over the situations in our lives? Jesus is ready to do miracles in our lives. But we have to come to Him and ask Him for help.

Can you think of a situation where we need God's help? (Examples: school work, getting along with brothers/sisters, knowing how to handle bullies, being afraid.)

When we let something worry us, it becomes a **burden**. A burden is something that we carry around with us. It gets heavier and heavier as time goes on.

Jesus promises that He can help us with our burdens. He says to give *Him* our problems, concerns, worries and fears. In 1 Peter 5:7, it says to give all our worries and cares to God, for He cares about what happens to you. Let's trust God to help us and give us rest.

Planning for Next Lesson
Story of the Seed Planter
Matthew 13:1-23

Preschool Lesson for Jesus Heals a Crippled Hand

One church day, Jesus and His friends went into the church. They saw a man that had a crippled right hand. It did not look like the other hand.

Other people were at the church too. These people were trying to find a way to trick Jesus because they didn't believe Jesus was God's Son.

They thought of a good question to ask Jesus. They said, "Is it all right to help people by healing on a church day?"

Back then, the people had special rules they had to follow on church days. They could not do certain things because it was God's day. These sneaky people were trying to trick Jesus.

Instead of answering the question, Jesus asked them a question. He said, "If you had a little sheep that fell into a pit on church day, would you get it out?" Of course! Jesus helped the people know that a person was much more important to God than a sheep. Then, He told them that it was all right to do good on a church day.

After He answered their question, He asked the man to stretch out his crippled right hand. When the man did this, a miracle happened! The man's hand was well!! It looked just like the other hand!

Many people saw what happened and followed Jesus.

Jesus loved all kinds of people no matter what they looked like. He cared for them and showed them that they were special to Him and to God.

This week, let's find ways to help all kinds of people and show them that Jesus loves them.

Sing, "Jesus loves me."

Hands-on Activities For Jesus Heals a Crippled Hand

Using an envelope, make two puppets (or more). Draw Jesus on one and the crippled man on the other. Have fun telling the story again.

Act out the story letting different people play the part of the crippled man.

Try to do an activity with one hand tied or placed behind their back—it's hard. Talk about how hard it must have been for the crippled man. Share how he must have felt to be able to use both hands!

Make hand prints and write the verse on it or a thought from the story.

For younger kids, do a fun finger-painting activity. Be sure to bring an oversized shirt to put on so that they will not get paint on themselves.

Some kids have a hard time learning their left and right sides. Practice learning it together. (Remember that if you face them, your left and right are backwards from theirs and can be confusing.)