CONFERENCE CURRICULUM YEAR 1 – Refreshed by God

Day 4: Healed on the Sabbath

Overview:

Key Focus: God restores all of the time

Bible Story: The withered hand is healed

Scriptures: Mark 2:23-27, Matthew 12:9-14, Luke 6:6-11

Week's Memory Verse:

Psalm 34:8 Taste & see that The Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

Lesson:

Hi! I feel so refreshed getting to learn so many stories about how God takes care of me. I feel pretty much ready for anything our camping trip could have to offer! But God does not just help us when we are camping. In fact, God is ready to help us all of the time! We have been learning so much about how God refreshes his people in times of need. We have been looking into some stories from the Old Testament with Adam and Eve, Moses, and Elijah. But today, we are going to focus on a story from the New Testament! This story involves Jesus himself! There are a couple different places this

story is found. You can read about it in Mark 2:23-27, Matthew 12:9-14, and Luke 6:6-11. But today we will be reading from the one in the book of Mark! Everybody can follow along in the book of Mark, chapter 2!

Where we are in this story, Jesus and the disciples were doing lots of traveling for ministry. They had been working hard teaching, healing, and ministering to people all around them. All of that work made them hungry! So one day, they began to pluck some wheat fields for food. The Pharisees were people who followed God. But they thought that you had to be perfect in following the law. When the Pharisees saw that Jesus and the disciples in the field, they were not happy. They were upset because they were plucking the fields on the Sabbath day. According to the law, you were not allowed to do this. There were a lot of things you were not allowed to do on the Sabbath, for this day was supposed to be holy. The Pharisees confronted Jesus about this. But Jesus, being the son of God, had a lesson for them. *"And He said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.'"* Mark 2:27. His helpers were hungry and needed to be fed! They had been so busy with their ministry that this was probably the first time they have had a moment to gather food in a long time. Jesus reminded the Pharisees that it was more important to take care of people and that if we can help someone we should always try to.

Just then, Jesus approached a man in the synagogue. This man's hand was withered. This meant that his hand was unwell and unusable. But Jesus came up to this man with the Pharisees watching behind him. *"Then He said to them, "What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out? Of how much more value than is a man than a sheep? Therefore, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.'"* Matthew 12:11. He was saying that there were many times man had to do good on a Sabbath day. People were quick to save sheep if they were in trouble, but there were lots of actual people that also needed help. He wanted to show that if sheep were worth helping on the Sabbath, then people should be even more worthy of that support. After Jesus spoke to the Pharisees, he spoke to the withered hand of the man. He commanded that his hand be restored and completely healed. Everyone was amazed to see the hand be made well again! It had been restored into a whole, functioning hand, just like the other one!

The Pharisees grew in anger as they watched Jesus perform this miracle. They believed that no one was supposed to be gathering grains, healing people, or teaching on the Sabbath. So, they plotted against him.

The man in the synagogue was miraculously healed by Jesus. This was surprising because the Sabbath was a holy day for the Lord. But Jesus made it clear that doing good for people was more important than what The Pharisees thought was lawful.

God is so good that he wants to go out of his way to restore us. It is easy to think that God is busy or has better things to do than to care for us. But that's not who God is. He does not ignore you for any reason! He always wants to see you well. Even if we are not following him perfectly, even when circumstances feel impossible, and even on the Sabbath day. God wants to restore you; it might just be in ways you were not expecting to be. Or maybe it will be at a time you did not think you could be cared for. Even when we do not see it, God comes to help us! No matter what!

Pop Quiz!

Let's see how much you remember about today's story! You can ask these questions in groups, as a whole class, or pass out the questions on an activity sheet.

- Where did we read our story from today? (Mark 2:23-27)
- This story can be found in other places in the bible, too! Where else can we read about this? (Matthew 12:9-14, Luke 6:6-11)
- Who was traveling with Jesus? (The disciples)
- How many disciples were there? (Twelve)
- What were Jesus and the disciples doing? (Plucking wheat from the fields)
- Why were they plucking wheat? (They were hungry)
- Who saw them working? (The Pharisees)
- Who were the Pharisees? (People who followed God's law)
- Why were the Pharisees mad? (Jesus was working on the Sabbath)
- What is the Sabbath Day? (It is the day made holy according to the law. You are not supposed to work or teach.)
- What did Jesus say to them? (*"And He said to them, 'The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.'"* Mark 2:27. *You may want just a short version of this answer from the kids instead of the whole verse.)
- What example did Jesus give them? (That people help their sheep on the Sabbath all of the time. He was helping his people, which should be more important.)

- Who did Jesus approach in the synagogue? (The man with the withered hand)
- What did Jesus do to the man in the synagogue? (He healed his hand)
- How did the Pharisees feel about the miracle? (They were angry)
- What is Jesus saying is important? (Taking care of people)
- What stops Jesus from helping those in need? (Nothing)
- When does God want to restore you? (All of the time!)