

EQUIP Leader Lesson Outline

May 31st, 2020

Introduction

SHARE: Share a time when you helped someone or someone helped you, even though the people around you may have disapproved of it. (Use Spencer's story if you can't think of one: Spencer went to a gas station in the evening with some friends. They were approached by a man looking for gas money. Spencer went inside and paid for his gasoline. When he returned home and told his family, they were not happy because the situation seemed unsafe to them. It may have been unsafe on the one hand, but because he was with friends and his heart was telling him to help the man, he chose to help.) *(This story does not suggest we are to help others when we feel unsafe for our well-being!)*

QUESTION: Imagine that you saw a person in need of help, but everyone around you told you *not* to help that person. How would that make you feel? Would you go over and help that person, or would you do what the other people wanted instead? (Share your answers)

SAY THIS: Jesus was in a similar situation. Our Big Idea for this lesson is: **The best time to help people is when they need it.** Our Key Verse is: **Anyone who knows the good they ought to do, but doesn't do it; sins.** (James 4:17).

Scripture

SAY THIS: In today's passage, Jesus heals a man's shriveled hand on the Sabbath. He was unable to work and was in need of healing. The religious leaders were actually watching Jesus, hoping he would heal the man so that they could accuse him of violating the Sabbath law. You see, Jesus had previously healed a man at the pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath. Later, he also instructed his disciples to pick grain on the Sabbath. The Pharisees were fed up that Jesus and the disciples were working the Sabbath, which was to be a day of rest. The religious leaders were so consumed with the Old Testament laws, that their hearts had become hardened towards the needs of others. They had forgotten the reason for the law was to help people. The religious leaders would rather the handicap men suffer another day and the disciples go hungry, rather than letting them work on the Sabbath. Jesus exposed their selfish attitudes and overruled their authority. They didn't like that and they were very angry with Jesus. They were consumed with finding fault in Him.

READ: Pick one of your family members to read the scripture Luke 6:6-11

PRAY: Lead your family in a short time of prayer

Truth

SAY THIS: Jesus is more concerned about people and their hearts rather than their traditions and rules. If the rules prevent them from loving and helping people, the rules are missing their original purpose. God does not want ritual service without the heart. The Sabbath law taught that people could only be helped on the Sabbath if their lives were in danger. Yet, the religious leaders were known for even pulling their

donkey out of a pit on the Sabbath! They would pull their animal out of a pit, but wouldn't allow Jesus to heal a human being. Do you see their hypocrisy and hard hearts? Jesus challenged them with the idea that: failure to do good is the same as doing evil. James 4:17 "Anyone who knows the good they ought to do, but doesn't do it; sins." Meaning, **the best time to help someone is when they need help, not a moment later.** The Sabbath law did not intend for men to suffer if they could be helped on the Sabbath day, the religious leaders were twisting God's Words.

QUESTION: Why do you think Jesus asked the question "Which is lawful on the sabbath: to do good or to do evil? (to show them that they were being legalistic with the Sabbath, they were putting traditions above people, the Sabbath is a day to show love

SAY THIS: Jesus deliberately confronted the Pharisees to expose them of their hard hearts. He was stepping on their toes. They were motivated by selfishness, as seen by the fact that they couldn't care less about this man and his shriveled hand.

QUESTION: Why did Jesus become angry with the leaders? (Hard hearts, lack of compassion for others). Do you think that Jesus was right to become angry with them? Why? (Because they were putting rules in front of people in need, their hearts were not in the right place. They were twisting God's Word.)

Application

SAY THIS: Even though there were people watching Jesus to see if He would go against their rules, Jesus chose to show compassion to the man in need of help. The religious leaders did not care about helping people. They only wanted to find fault with Jesus, but Jesus was not concerned about making the people happy. He saw someone in need and went to help that person. We too need to show compassion to those that need help.

QUESTION: What are the things that prevent us from helping people? How can we get past these obstacles? (Example: "It will make me late". Response: It is OK to be inconvenienced in order to help someone.)

CHALLENGE: Challenge your family members to find one person in need to help this week. (It could be a family member in need of doing chores, a friend in need of a project, or a complete stranger in need of carrying something!) (As the leader, ask your family members later in the week to see if they've helped someone and encourage them if they haven't done it yet.)

End

SAY THIS: Remember that our Big Idea for this lesson is: **The best time to help people is when they need it.** Our Key Verse is: **Anyone who knows the good they ought to do, but doesn't do it; sins.** (James 4:17).

PRAY: Take turns praying for God to give you a heart to help people.