

WEEK 2: Harvesting and Healing on the Sabbath

Big Idea: Jesus chooses love over rules.

HANGOUT

1. Introduce today's Big Idea: **Jesus chooses love over rules.**
2. Provide a bowl of colourful candy (e.g., jellybeans) and invite each of the kids to grab a handful—but not to eat them yet. Choose a colour of candy based on what you see in the kids' hands. For each piece of candy they have in that colour, the kids must describe a rule they follow at home, at school, or in their community. Allow everyone to eat the other colours of candies as they share about these rules.

Watch this week's video on the Kids and Youth playlist at youtube.com/themeetinghouse

HEAR

3. Let everyone know that there were a lot of rules when Jesus was on earth. Instead of always following them, Jesus chose big, radical love.
4. Look up and read aloud the stories in Mark 2:23-3:6.
5. Discuss:
 - What is the Sabbath? (designated day of rest when people worshipped at the temple)
 - Which rule did Jesus' followers break as they walked through the fields? (picking grain, which was considered working on the day of rest)
 - What was Jesus' response to the Pharisees who questioned them? (gave example of David, who used bread that was set apart for God to feed himself and his companions when they were hungry)
 - What did Jesus mean in verses 27-28? (the rules were to help people rest but if everyone was stressed out with keeping them, no one was really resting; the way of Jesus is the most important thing we need to follow)
 - Which rule did the people in the synagogue expect Jesus to break? (healing on the Sabbath)
 - What did Jesus ask the people before he healed the man's hand? (see Mark 3:4)
 - How did the people respond to this question? (they said nothing)
 - How did Jesus feel about their response? (angry and sad)
 - In both of these stories, Jesus chose love over the rules. How was letting his disciples pick grain or healing the man's hand more loving than following the rules about the Sabbath?

HUDDLE

6. Explain that we can follow rules—and go a step further by acting out of love. Brainstorm some ideas for how the kids could go beyond a rule and chose big love as Jesus did (e.g., a rule about not fighting on the playground could prompt them to treat everyone on the playground with respect and kindness).
7. Pray, “Dear God, thank you for each of these kids [name each person in your group if possible]. Thank you that Jesus chose love over the rules, especially when it meant helping others. Help us follow his example and always choose love. We love you! Amen.”

Word Search

E B C E Y N A M P L P Z D S Y
T S Q I Y H R B H L T K H Q F
D L F W X S H P L T P E L M Y
K O T M S E E S I R A H P S H
H R H M D M Q C N L I B E T M
L D Y V M D E X I D P W B Y R
Z S D L E I F N A W J R M A E
M Q V E P Z G D R J H A M D S
M Y D M T G N X G J E S U S U
P G I Z O A M O R N X Y M F M
K B V T H T E G L P Z P J P D
V M A T D N R O B B U T S S M
S R D I T J H B X S W M H P R
S T O N J Y R M G U J H C K H
G S E Z E U G O G A N Y S I Q

SABBATH
PHARISEE
JESUS
FIELDS

SYNAGOGUE
HEALING
HAND
LORD

MAN
DAVID
GRAIN
STUBBORN