

A Good Shepherd
Story of Jesus

Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

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INTRODUCTION TO LENT--YEAR 2

The season of Lent is another "waiting time". The Good Shepherd program makes it easy for children to see the time pass as they prepare to experience Easter.

The stage is set for Lent by using a series of seven cards. The first six cards are purple with one side showing a blackened silhouette and the seventh card is white with one side showing a blackened silhouette. Each week the cards are removed from the Lent-2 basket and laid out in a straight line to your left with the solid side facing upward. As each week's story is shared, the card is turned over. The first week the purple card with the silhouette symbolizing the story of "Waving Palms" is revealed. The second week that card and the one with the silhouette symbolizing the story of "In Memory Of Her" are revealed. And so on. Each week we begin with card one, asking the children to mentally recall each part of the Lent story, before telling the current week's story.

During the story response time, the children are encouraged to take the Lent-2 basket and the story basket from the shelf and see if they can tell the story each week. By using the Lent cards and the story figures the children look ahead with great anticipation to the joy and wonder of Easter.

Each lesson in the Lent series tells you what story, story figures and Lent cards are to be used. During the "circle of light" be sure to place the appropriate bookmark representing each week's story in the Good Shepherd classroom Bible. This allows the children, non-readers as well as readers, to become familiar with where the Lent stories are found in the Bible.

An optional activity you may want to include at the start of the "circle of light" each week is the use of the church year puzzle. It illustrates the passage of the weeks of Lent as we move toward Easter. This is how you would do it the first week of Lent:

When the children return to the circle for the "circle of light", bring out the church puzzle.

ACTIONS

Hold up the church year puzzle.

Touch the first week of Lent.

Touch each purple piece as you count it.

WORDS

This is the circle of the church year. It helps us see how the time of God's people is divided.

We have just started Lent so we are right here on this first purple piece.

We will wait 1,2,3,4,5,6 weeks for a very special Easter celebration.

At this point begin the "circle of light" as usual. For weeks two through six simply move the markers on the church year puzzle before each circle of light and adapt your words accordingly. On week seven you will be at a white marker and it will be obvious the holy day of Easter has arrived.

During this time called Lent we learn a lot about Jesus, the stories he told and the things he did. We learn about his relationships with his friends and the people who followed him. The message of Lent is heard as we gradually begin to understand that Jesus showed himself to be the Messiah.

MATERIALS USED DURING LENT--YEAR 2

The medium Lent-Z basket on the shelf contains:

- a set of 7 cards are used each week in the following order:
 - a purple card with palm branch silhouette
 - a purple card with bottle silhouette
 - a purple card with man with withered hand silhouette
 - a purple card with table silhouette
 - a purple card with chalice and paten silhouette
 - a purple card with money pouch and coins silhouette
 - a white card with an empty tomb and cross silhouette

The story sets are used in the following order:

- Waving Palms basket
- In Memory Of Her basket
- Jesus Heals On The Sabbath basket
- Jesus Cleanses The Temple basket
- The Last Supper basket
- Judas Betrays Jesus basket
- Crucifixion and Resurrection basket

Items needed from the worship shelf for Lent:

- chalice (for use with the Last Supper basket)*
- paten (for use with the Last Supper basket)*

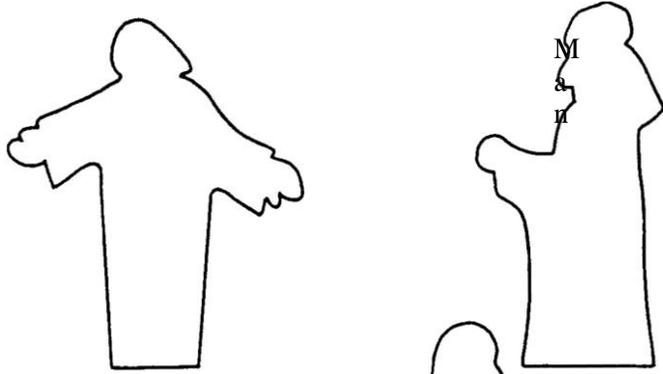
The church year puzzle used as an optional activity each week during the "circle of light" can be purchased separately from our Good Shepherd Accessories order form.

If communion is served during the "circle of light" the week The Last Supper story is presented you will need to purchase bread and grape juice.

* These items are not furnished for you. We recommend their use and hope you can acquire them locally.

JESUS HEALS ON THE SABBATH MATERIALS

- small wicker basket to hold:
 - wooden Jesus figure
 - wooden man with withered hand figure
 - 2 wooden Pharisee figures
- from worship shelf
 - Lent-2 basket containing 7 cards



Jesus



Pharisees

JESUS HEALS ON THE SABBATH MARK 3:1-6

ACTIONS

After speaking, stand and get the Lent-2 basket from the worship shelf. Get the story basket from its shelf. Bring them to the circle and sit down.

Allow 10-15 seconds of silence as you reverently touch the Lent cards or wooden figures to center yourself and the children.

Point to the worship shelf.

Remove the six purple cards from the Lent-2 basket and lay them out with the plain purple side showing in a straight line starting to your outer left.

Remove the white card from the Lent-2 basket and lay it next to the purple card closest to you with the plain white side showing.

Turn the first purple card over so the silhouette of the palm branch shows. Touch it reverently.

Turn the second purple card over so the silhouette of the bottle shows. Touch it reverently.

Turn the third purple card over so the silhouette of the man with a withered hand shows. Touch it reverently.

Place the Jesus figure at right center of the storytelling area. Place the two Pharisee figures to his right.

WORDS

Watch carefully where I go to get these materials so you will know where to find them if you choose to make this your work today or another day.

All the words to this story are inside of me. Will you will make silence with me so I can find all the words to this story?

The worship cloth is purple and we know we are waiting. This is the third week of Lent.

These are the Lent cards.

They will help us understand the stories we hear during Lent and make us ready for the time we are waiting for. .. Easter.

The first week of Lent we learned about Jesus coming into the city of Jerusalem while the people waved palms.

The second week of Lent (last week) we learned about a woman that Jesus said to remember.

This third week of Lent we will hear about Jesus healing a man on the Sabbath.

Jesus had argued earlier with the church leaders called Pharisees.

Touch the Pharisees as you speak.

Touch Jesus and nod as you speak.

Move Jesus to the center of the storytelling area.

Place the man slightly away from Jesus, on his left.

Move the Pharisee figures to the left, closer to the Jesus figure.

Nod your head as you speak.

Move the man to the right, closer to Jesus.

Turn Jesus slightly to face the Pharisee figures.

Pause slightly, then touch the Pharisees and slowly shake your head.

Make your voice quiet but very intense.

Turn Jesus to face the man.

Gently touch the figure of the man as you speak.

Move the Pharisees away to the right. Turn them to face each other.

They had been angry with Jesus because he did things on the Sabbath that were against their laws.

But Jesus did things to help people.

After he argued with the Pharisees, Jesus went back into the synagogue.

In the synagogue was a man with a hand that he couldn't move.

The Pharisees watched Jesus to see if he would heal the man on the Sabbath.

It was against their laws to heal anyone on the Sabbath.

Jesus said to the man, "Come here."

Then he looked at the Pharisees and said, "Is it keeping the law of the Sabbath to do good or cause bad things? Is it keeping the law to save life or to kill?"

The Pharisees said nothing.

Jesus looked at the Pharisees and was very angry and very, very sad that their hearts were not touched by the man.

Then he said to the man, "Hold out your hand. "

The man held out his hand and immediately it was made well.

The Pharisees then went outside and talked together about how they could destroy Jesus.

WONDERING QUESTIONS:

I wonder why there were laws that kept people from being healed on the Sabbath?

I wonder if the man with the hurt hand was afraid to come to Jesus?

I wonder what the man did after he was healed?

I wonder if Jesus was more angry or more sad at the Pharisees?

Place the wooden figures into the story basket.

Pick up the first three Lent cards and place them in the Lent-Z basket.

Pick up the remaining three purple cards and then pick up the white card and place them in the Lent-Z basket.

After speaking, stand and carry the story basket back to its shelf and the Lent-2 basket back to the worship shelf. Return to the circle.

Be sure ALL children have had a chance to choose their work before dismissing the children.

Watch carefully how I put these materials away so you will know how to use them if you choose to make this your work today or another day.

This is the third week of Lent.

We will wait and make ourselves ready for four more weeks, then it will be Easter.

Watch carefully where I return this story so you will know where to find it if you choose to make this your work today or another day.

I wonder what you will make your work today? Let's go around the circle and choose what each of us will do.

JESUS HEALS ON THE SABBATH TEACHER HELPS

There are several important points to note in this story. First, this isn't a faith story. There was no faithful man believing that Jesus could heal. There were no faithful friends bringing the man to be healed. There was no parent asking Jesus to come and heal a child. Rather, Jesus heals this man at this time to make a point. Jesus was the Messiah and it was time for the world to begin to understand that. We have no response from the man and no account of what happened to him after this healing.

The second point to note is how involved Jesus was in this issue of Sabbath violations. Notice that Jesus became angry with the Pharisees and "grieved at their hardness of heart" (Mark 3:5). Jesus is shown as a very emotional man who could not understand how these church leaders could be so cold-hearted as not to wish healing for the man with the useless hand.

Jesus' whole understanding of the Sabbath was different from that of the Jews of his day. In the passage just prior to the story today, we have the account of Jesus and his disciples plucking grain as they walked through a field because they were hungry. The Pharisees saw this as a violation of the law. Jesus saw it as meeting the needs of people, which was, to him, more important than keeping the laws. In this case, if the law was not helpful, it was not worthwhile.

It's important to remember that Jesus kept the laws of his faith to the best of his ability. He did not throw out all the laws he had been brought up with. He did, however, remember that people were more important than laws. After all, Jesus had been raised by Joseph, who refused to allow Mary, the woman he'd betrothed, to be stoned as the Jewish law of the day dictated. If Mary's pregnancy had been revealed to the church leaders with the knowledge that Joseph was not the father, then Mary would have been brought to her parent's home and would have been stoned there. Joseph did not choose to follow the law because he believed that Mary was carrying the Messiah in her womb. I also believed it was because he loved her and had a great deal of compassion for her.

As we wonder, we begin with wondering why there was a law that kept people from being healed on the Sabbath. You may need to remind the children that Sabbath is another word for "day of worship", or in our language, Sunday. The responses may be somewhat confused because the children have never experienced this restriction. They may, however, understand that doctor's offices aren't open on Sunday and if they're sick they have to go to the emergency room at a hospital. Allow them time to try to make sense out of this incongruity.

The second question wonders about the man and how he felt coming to Jesus. The children may remember that Jesus got angry in the story. But they may also remember that Jesus had healed other people. They will try to imagine being the man and their responses will come out of their own experience or imagination.

The third question wonders about the man after the healing. What did he do? Where did he go? What happened to him? Allow the children to imagine how his life changed. What did he say to his friends and family? How did his life change?

In the final question we wonder if Jesus was more angry or more sad at the Pharisees. Some of the children will have a harder time with Jesus being angry than with Jesus being sad. That's OK. As children grow older and develop their thinking skills they become more and more able to except the fact that Jesus was human and experienced the full range of human emotions.

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR OLDER CHILDREN:

I wonder what was wrong with the man's hand?

In this story we don't know if the man who was healed had faith in Jesus or not. Could the man have been healed if he did not have faith in Jesus?

The Pharisees seemed to spend a lot of time trying to destroy Jesus. Why would they have wanted Jesus out of the way?

We have no idea what happened to the healed man after this time in the synagogue. Use your sanctified imagination and tell a story of what the man did after he was healed.