

The Kingdom of God
Lesson 2: Healing on the Sabbath
LifeWalk Leader Guide

Open/Icebreakers: Why have rules? What purpose do they serve? Do rules ever get in the way of doing good? From what you know about Jesus, how would you describe his relationship to the rules of His day?

Digging In: Read Luke 14:1-6

1. Describe the context of this account. Where is Jesus? Why would He eat with a leader of the Pharisees? Would you call this environment friendly or hostile?
2. The man in vs. 2 was sick with dropsy. From a medical perspective, he suffered with swelling and perhaps a more serious illness. In the 1st century, dropsy was associated with sexual sin. If this is true, describe how this may have “heightened the tension” at this dinner. Can you speculate on why this man with dropsy would have been in attendance? What group/groups of people would you identify as “those with dropsy” in our culture today?
3. How would you answer Jesus’ question in vs. 3? Explain what you know about the Sabbath. Why would Jesus have to ask the question in vs. 3? He engaged in a similar conversation earlier in Luke 13:10-17. Had something happened to the commandment ‘Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy?’
4. Why would the people at the dinner refuse to answer Jesus’ question? The healing involved the “touch” of Jesus. Is that significant? Why?
5. What point is Jesus trying to make in vs. 5? Does that help you answer the question of vs. 3?
6. What problem(s) is/are Jesus confronting in this context?

Reflection:

1. How did Jesus’ actions confront the social norms of the time? What does this say about the social norms of his kingdom?
2. Do you see any parallels between what is happening in this story and what is happening in our world today? What about in our religious world today? If you do, how would you think followers of Jesus should respond?
3. Do you feel there are any areas in your life where rules may be hindering you instead of helping you fulfill the “kingdom call?”

Prayer: Ask God to help you have a heart of compassion for those who are hurting. Pray for wisdom as you grow in your understanding of the relationship between God's rules and His kingdom call.