



THE SABBATH CIRCLES HOME SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Unit Theme: Illumination of mind and heart

Lesson connected to Sunday, March 8, 2020

Today's Scripture: Mark 2:1-12

Key Verse: “At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they [*the Scribes*] were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, ‘Why do you raise such questions in your hearts?’” Mark 2:8

Contexts of the Scripture:

- As we have learned in previous lessons, Mark is the oldest of the four Gospels written closest in time to the end of Jesus’ life on earth. It was written down approximately 30 years after his death on the cross. Prior to that, these stories were preserved in oral form, being told from one person to another to another.
- This particular story contains two separate incidents which are directly connected, a healing which prompted local Jewish synagogue authorities to question Jesus’ actions. Note that they do not question the healing. They instead question the means by which Jesus accomplished it which was the forgiveness of the man’s sins. This was because in Jesus’ time, illness was often seen as punishment from God for sin, known and unknown.
- Jesus emphasizes once again that he is the “Son of Man” or fully human, not a divine being masquerading as a man. It is another example of Jesus trying to illustrate the conundrum of him being both “Son of Man” and “Son of God.”

Questions to go deeper:

- What is the timeline of this story? What happens and in what order? Make a list so that it is clear in your mind.
- What was so extraordinary about how the man who was healed by Jesus came to be before him? How did this affect Jesus?
- How did Jesus let the man know he had been healed? Why did the Scribes take exception to this? How did Jesus respond to them?
- At one point, Jesus asks the Scribes who were mumbling to themselves, “Why do you raise such questions in your hearts?” What questions was he referring to? All questions from anyone at any time or these specific questions from the Scribes in this situation? Why does it matter which?
- How does the story end? What do you imagine the Scribes were saying to themselves at that point?

Activity possibilities:

See other side

- **Family activities:**

- Where would this fall on the bible timeline? Hint: Check out the context info above!
- Work together to create a script of this story and then act it out together. Take a few minutes to talk about what it felt like to be the person you were playing in the story. Then, act it out again only this time switch roles, having the person who was the Scribe play Jesus and vice versa. Talk about how it felt to go from “being” the Scribe to “being” Jesus and vice versa.
- Give each person a large index card and invite him/her to write down one question they would ask Jesus if they had been in the room when this story took place. Share your questions with each other.

- **Younger children activities:**

- Check out this link to some fun craft ideas to tell the story of the “four friends” to your family and friends:
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/194217802658462667/?lp=true>

- **Older children and youth activities:**

- Work through the other activities explained above.
- Often when we look at this story, we focus on the healing of the man whose four friends went to extraordinary lengths to get him in Jesus’ line of sight. But another important thing in this story is the questions Jesus asks of the Scribes. His questions to the Scribes are unique to them and to the situation. Try to imagine what questions Jesus would ask you if you encountered him one day in the park, or getting ice cream, etc. Write down one or two of those Jesus questions to you and set them aside for a day or two. Then, go back and look at them again. How would you answer them??

Remember, Rev. Ruth is always happy to answer your questions and help you find more information on anything in the Bible that interests you! Catch up with her through the church or come to the Savoy Bookstore and Café any Thursday afternoon between 2-4pm.