

**08.09.09 Mark 3: 1-6****Materials Needed**

Rocks or pebbles for each child with "Clay" written on them with a marker or wrapped with a piece of paper.

Lyrics attached, sang to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me"

Read Mark 3: 1-6

Opening Activity

Hand each child a rock, or a single rock to pass around.

For younger kids 0-4 and older kids= Sing "He is the Potter" (Attached)

Discussion

Question 1: Do we sometimes see people that need help, but we do not do anything?

Do we always speak up when we know that an action is hurtful to other people?

Do we avoid people that are suffering, so we will not feel guilty for not helping?

Question 2: Have you ever acted like a rock? What are some things that we can use to describe a rock? (Suggestions include a rock does not move; a rock does not have feelings; a rock is not affected by its surroundings; a rock is unchanging)

Question 3: We sang a song about clay today. How are we like clay? Is your heart like a piece of clay or is it hard like the rock?

Read Mark 3: 1-6

Summary

This is a story about Jesus healing a man on the Sabbath. The man's hand was twisted, and Jesus told him to come forward, and he healed the man in front of the Pharisees. We have talked about the Pharisees before. Do you remember who they were? (They were the people that enforced the religious laws) Jesus questions the Pharisees about what a person should do if another person is hurting or needs something. But the Pharisees do not respond, and Jesus becomes upset.

Mark 3:5 (NIRV)

"Jesus looked around at them in anger. He was very upset because their hearts were stubborn. Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out and his hand was as good as new."

Questions to think about:

1. Why was Jesus upset with the Pharisees?
(because they did not respond to his questions about what to do if you see a person hurting or suffering)
2. How do you respond if you see a person who is suffering? Do you always help? Do you always sacrifice or give up something you really like to help someone else?
3. We are pieces of clay, molded by God. He continues to mold our hearts each day, but sometimes our hearts are hardened. What does this mean?
(We act like the rock, and do not respond to God – this leads us to not respond when people are suffering)
4. What will happen to our hearts if we do not learn to love others when they are hurting? (it will become a hard heart, and Jesus will be upset because we have not honored Him by loving people)



Lesson: For those of us who follow Jesus, He saved us from our sins when we were in need of Him and couldn't help ourselves. In response to His love, we should always try to help others that are hurting or suffering and can't help themselves. Sometimes we will need to give up something we really like to help a person. For example, there are lots of children that do not have toys like we do. We could give our toys to other children who have not been blessed like we have. Another example would be to share your lunch with your friend at school if he did not bring his. Jesus wants us to be like pieces of clay, and He wants to mold us each day to be more like Him. We respond to His love for us with the choices we make. When we follow and worship Jesus and are soft like clay, not hard like a rock, this brings glory to God. Being like clay means that Jesus will change us to be more like Him. This means that we too will begin helping others in need.

Lyrics: "He is the Potter" (Sing to the tune of Jesus Loves Me)

Jesus made me for His clay,
Molded and shaped me just His way.
He wants me to learn to pray,
Love and worship Him each day.

He is the Potter
I am the Clay
He is the Potter
I'll worship Him each day!