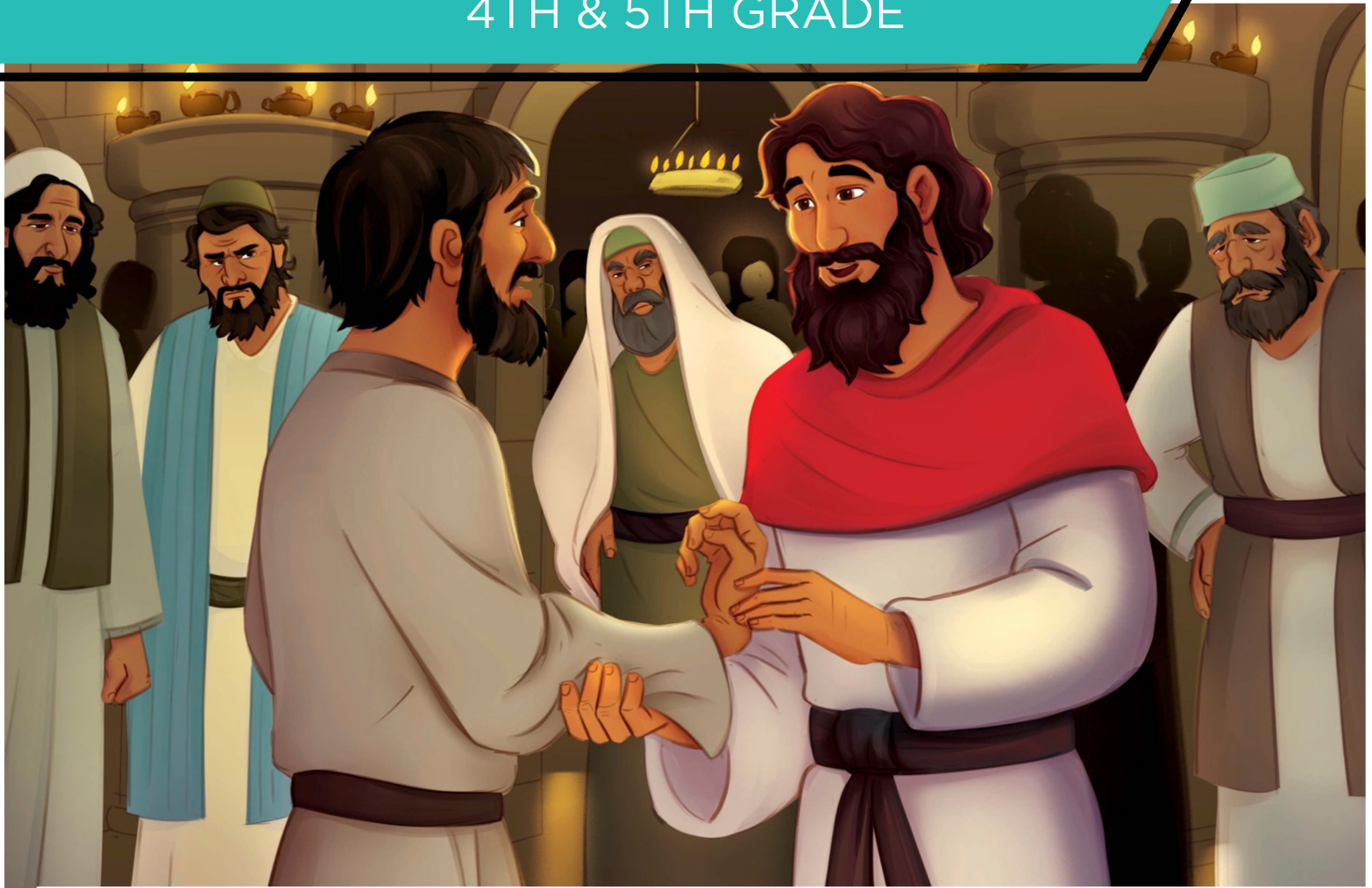


PRETEEN MINISTRY

4TH & 5TH GRADE



JULY 19, 2026

JESUS IS LORD OF THE SABBATH

MATTHEW 12; MARK 2-3; LUKE 6

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus showed that God gives us commands to help us, not hurt us. Jesus rules over all. Jesus died on the cross and rose again to show God's love and do good by rescuing sinners.

LEADER DEVO

Jesus rules over all creation and cares deeply for His people's needs. From satisfying their hunger to healing their ailments, Jesus intervened in the lives of His followers. He defended His place as the Lord of the Sabbath and the one who fulfills God's laws.

While the Pharisees viewed their obedience to God's rules as a means of self-righteousness, Jesus demonstrated that His Father's commands are to help us and to point to our need for a Savior.

Jesus quoted the words of Scripture back to these experts of the law. In doing so, Jesus made weighty claims about Himself that would not please many in His audience. He once again claimed to be God, to be greater than the temple—God's dwelling place—and to be Lord over the Sabbath.

The Pharisees set their hearts on condemning Jesus and ridding themselves of the problems and competition they felt Jesus was continually creating for them. They stood ready to accuse Him of any perceived wrongdoing. They even tried to use Jesus' selfless acts of healing to discredit Him!

Considering this, Jesus proposed a theological question about legalism and ethics to His dissenters: "Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" (Mark 3:4). Sadly, the men viewed Jesus' healing on the Sabbath as a greater offense to the Lord than the murderous schemes they would soon devise against the Son of God.

The hardness of the men's hearts grieved Jesus. Yet, He restored the man's shriveled hand and met a tangible need through healing. In this simple Bible story, we witness Christ's power and willingness to redeem and restore, even amid others' doubts and criticism.

Pray that the boys and girls who hear this story would be moved by Christ's heart for our needs—which includes salvation for those who have not yet responded to Jesus in faith. Pray that kids see themselves like the hungry and hurting ones in this story who recognize their need for the Savior.

ARRIVAL

When kids arrive, they can play in the game room, large group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until large group starts. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and build relationships with them. Ask them about their week, big events coming up, or follow up on a prayer request from the week before.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

THIS MONTH'S MEMORY VERSE

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16



NEXT BIBLE BUCKS DAY

JULY 26

There are many techniques and tools to help kids (and you!) memorize Scripture.

THIS MONTH'S TOOL: BIT BY BIT

When learning longer verses or entire passages, don't try to memorize the entire thing at once! Take it bit by bit and break the verse/passage up into smaller chunks. Start with the first five words and focus only on those. Once you have those memorized, add another five or so words, and so on.

LESSON

One day, Jesus and His disciples were passing through some fields of grain. His disciples were hungry and began to pick and eat some of the grain. The Pharisees saw this and said, “Why are Your disciples breaking the law by doing work on the Sabbath?”

Jesus replied, “Haven’t you read what David did when he and his men were hungry? They entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which was against the law for them.” Only priests were allowed to eat that bread.

Jesus also said, “Do you know what the prophet Hosea meant when he said that God desires mercy and not sacrifice? If you did, you would not have told My disciples they were doing wrong. The Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath. The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

On another Sabbath day, Jesus entered the synagogue and began teaching. He saw a man who had a shriveled hand. To accuse Jesus, the religious leaders were watching Jesus closely to see if He would heal on the Sabbath.

But Jesus knew their thoughts, and He was angry and sad at the hardness of their hearts. Jesus reminded the religious leaders that it was right to do good and save a life because this actually kept God’s law.

Jesus said, “If you had a sheep that fell into a pit on the Sabbath, wouldn’t you lift it out? A person is worth far more than a sheep, so it is lawful to do what is good on the Sabbath.”

Then He told the man, “Stretch out your hand.” The man stretched out his hand, and it was completely healed! The Pharisees were filled with rage and left, thinking about how they might put Jesus to death.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus showed that God gives us commands to help us, not to hurt us. Jesus rules over all. Jesus died on the cross and rose again to show God’s love and do good by rescuing sinners.

SMALL GROUPS

OUR GOAL

To create opportunities that invite preteens to discover for themselves what it means to own and live out their faith.

DISCUSSION / APPLICATION

1) The Pharisees were trying to keep God's law. Is that bad? If not, then why did Jesus challenge the Pharisees?

Explain that Jesus did not challenge God's law; He was challenging the Pharisees' incorrect understanding of it. Share that Jesus fulfilled the law and those who trust Him are under the new covenant. Our good works cannot save us; only Jesus' death on the cross saves believers. But when a person comes to know Jesus, they will seek to honor His commands.

2) Why does God command us to keep the sabbath (aka "the day of rest")?

3) What does this story tell us about what Jesus values?

*He values **people**! Helping others and showing them love is His highest priority.*

4) One of our church's four core values is "people over programs". How can we as a church continue to live out this value in light of our lesson today?

5) Is there someone in your life who needs to know Jesus values and loves them? How can you share the Gospel with them this week?

PICK UP

After small group, kids can play in the game room, large group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until they are picked up. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and follow up on any questions or discussions from small group time.

As parents arrive upstairs, direct them to the game room, large group room, or balcony to pick their kids up. Make sure to match their security code with their kid's name tag and remove the name tag before they leave!

CLEAN UP

- Put away any supplies used during small group.
- Turn off TVs and lights in the small group rooms.
- Turn off both air hockey tables and put away extra pucks or paddles.
- Gather any balls or other items left out in the game room and put them away in the correct bins.
- Put away any games, books, or supplies in the balcony area.
- Check for any items left behind by kids and put them in the lost and found.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!