

Who is Jesus?



Imagine trying to tell some-one who Jesus is. What would you say?

This was the mission of Mark when he wrote his book. No one had done it before him. Up till then, the news about Jesus had been passed on by word of mouth. Mark was not one of the 12 disciples, but he was a close companion of Peter.

The Book of Mark

- First written story of Jesus
- Shortest Gospel
- Action-packed

Mark 1:1 “This is the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” (*Good News Translation*)

4 – Part Series: “Jesus came to”

Lesson Three

Read Mark, Chapter 3: 1-6

International Children's Bible

Jesus Heals a Man's Crippled Hand

Another time when Jesus went into a synagogue, a man with a crippled hand was there. ² Some people there wanted to see Jesus do something wrong so they could accuse him. They watched him closely to see if he would heal the man on the Sabbath day.

³ Jesus said to the man with the crippled hand, "Stand up here in front of everyone."

⁴ Then Jesus asked the people, "Which is right on the Sabbath day: to do good, or to do evil? Is it right to save a life or to destroy one?" But they said nothing to answer him.

⁵ Jesus was angry as he looked at the people. But he felt very sad because they were stubborn. Then he said to the man, "Let me see your hand." The man put his hand out for Jesus, and it was healed. ⁶ Then the Pharisees left and began making plans with the Herodians^a about a way to kill Jesus.

Synagogue: Place of worship and study for the Jews

Pharisees: Experts and teachers of Jewish law. They taught strict obedience to rules and commandments.

Sabbath: Jewish holy day of rest and worship. 7th day. Commandment number 4. No work is allowed.

In this story, Jesus confronts the Jewish leaders and the people around them. He is **angry** with them, and sad at the same time. They are watching him very closely, waiting for him to make just one **wrong** move.

- 1) What was wrong with the man in the synagogue? (He had a crippled hand).

Think about all the things you use your hands for (playing games, playing sport, cooking, brushing your teeth).

Can you imagine having a hand that doesn't work? What activities would be hard to do with only one hand? Try using a computer or iPad. Or, can you tie your shoelaces with only one hand? Was that hard or easy?

- 2) How do you think the man felt when Jesus asked him to stand up in front of everyone? (afraid, embarrassed, excited)
- 3) In the eyes of the Pharisees, why was it wrong for Jesus to heal this man? (It was a Sabbath day of rest.)
- 4) What did Jesus do to heal the man? (He spoke, "Let me see your hand".)
- 5) In healing the man, what did Jesus show about himself? (He is greater than the Law of Moses. In fact, He is the **ultimate authority**.)
- 6) How did the Pharisees feel about this? (They wanted to kill him because he showed them they were wrong in their teaching. In fact, they were so angry with Jesus, they were prepared to work together with the Herodians, whom they hated).

Activity:

- 1) Look up a dictionary or the internet. Find "authority". How many words can you find or think of that have a similar meaning? Write them down.
Examples: "in charge", "command"
- 2) Add to the book you're creating about Jesus: "Gospel according to...", modelling it on the Book of Mark.
 1. Fourth page:
 - a. Words at the top: "Jesus came to show his authority".
 - b. Trace your hand on the paper. At the bottom, write "Let me see your hand." The man put his hand out for Jesus, and it was healed. Colour the hand in any way you like.
 - c. Ask your parent to post a picture of your wonderful work on the WhatsApp group.

Memory Verse: Matthew 19:26

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man, this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."