

# Breaking the rules

Today we look at an incident in which Jesus met hostility from the religious leaders of his time. It was because he broke the rules by healing a man on the Sabbath day. But whose rules were they?

But first we deal with a major health crisis that has arisen on the planet Mars.

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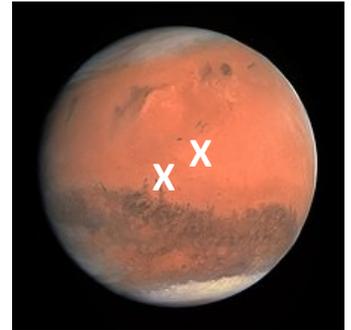
Chief Ugbot

## COVID CRISIS ON MARS

There's a big problem on the planet Mars, and the Supreme Leader of the Martians needs your advice on how to deal with it!

You see the Covid-19 virus has somehow spread to this planet and many of the creatures on Mars are getting infected by it. Using social media, these creatures have been sharing all sorts of ideas about what rules should be followed, but some of their rules seem

a bit unnecessary and hard to follow. The Supreme Leader of the Martians, His Excellency Chief Ugbot, has asked for your advice on working out which of the following rules should be imposed on his fellow Martians. Circle the ones you think would be helpful and cross out the ones that seem unhelpful.



The planet Mars. The two worst hotspots are marked with an X.

### RULES

- 1) Put up a large sign outside your home saying "COVID KEEP OUT!"
- 2) Always wear a green hat when outside.
- 3) Always wear a mask when outside.
- 4) Wash your hands for seven minutes with two different kinds of soap before speaking.
- 5) Keep at least 1.5 metres away from other Martians.
- 6) Stop breathing.
- 7) Wash your hands with soap for 20 seconds before eating.

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In our Bible story today Jesus is challenged by the religious leaders who are very fussy about following the religious rules that they themselves have invented. They have taken God's original rules, the Ten Commandments, that God gave to the people for their wellbeing and have turned them into a whole lot of man-made rules that are harsh and hard to follow.

Look at the video of the story about the time Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath day. The Sabbath was meant to be a special day each week for everyone to rest from hard work and to spend time learning about God at the local meeting place called a synagogue. But the religious leaders, the Pharisees, came up with a whole lot of petty rules about what could and what couldn't be done on this day, and in doing so missed the whole point that the Sabbath day was meant to be for the good of people, not a burden or a hardship.

Grab a Bible and read Mark 3:1-6. Then see if you can answer the questions on the Questions page.

There's also a craft activity to do. Make a helicopter to remind you of Psalm 51:10 about a clean heart.