

## Sunday school lesson – Upper Primary

<b>BIG IDEA</b>	God desires mercy and not sacrifice
<b>Bible Reading</b>	Luke 6:1-11
<b>Preparation</b>	<p><b>Read Luke 6:1-11</b> The question of what is “lawful” and “unlawful” is the focus of this passage (v.2, 4, 9). The context relates to the Sabbath, but the principle also applies more generally. Jesus claims to be the “Lord of the Sabbath” and therefore the one with the authority to answer this question. His answers (both in the cornfield and the synagogue) show us what kind of law-keeping is pleasing to God. In the parallel passage in Matthew 12, Jesus quotes from Hosea 6, “I desire mercy, not sacrifice”. Mere outward obedience to rules does not constitute law-keeping that pleases God, rather he is pleased with doing good and saving life (v.9). This does not negate the requirement to keep the law, as Jesus came not to abolish, but to fulfil the law (Matt 5:17). Rather, it gets at the heart of what we aim to achieve through keeping the law. If our motivation for obedience does not include a desire to show mercy and love, then we are in danger of rousing God’s anger (Mark 3:5), rather than his pleasure.</p> <p><b>Take home message:</b> God is pleased with law-keeping that shows love and mercy, not just outward obedience of rules.</p> <p><b>Prepare for “Getting Started”:</b> Materials for making a mask</p>
<b>Getting Started</b>	Make the mask – talk about how the mask makes you look different on the outside but doesn’t change who you are.
<b>Finding Out</b> 1. Sabbath in a cornfield	<p><b>Read Luke 6:1-2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Sabbath was the day of the week that the Israelites were told to keep separate from the other days (4<sup>th</sup> Commandment – Exodus 2:8-11). They were to rest from their normal work and use it as a special day to remember God.</li> <li>➤ The Pharisees had made up a whole list of rules (39!) of things that people were not allowed to do on a Sabbath day. These were not things commanded by God.</li> <li>➤ According the Pharisee rules, Jesus’ disciples were doing something “unlawful” by picking and eating the grain. In fact, this was specifically allowed by God, even if it wasn’t your own field (Deuteronomy 23:25).</li> </ul> <p><b>Read Luke 6:3-5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: How did Jesus answer the Pharisees?</i></li> <li>➤ Summarise the incident that Jesus refers to here (David was on the run from Saul. He asked the priest for the bread that had been offered as a sacrifice to God. Normally, only priests could eat the bread, but because David and his men were hungry, and there was nothing else, they were given it to eat).</li> <li>➤ God’s laws were never designed to stop hungry people from being able to eat!</li> <li>➤ God cares about people, particularly people that are in need. God’s laws come from God. They reflect who God is, which means they are good.</li> <li>➤ If by trying to keep Gods law, we hurt other people, or it stops us from helping people in need, then it’s possible we have misunderstood God’s law.</li> </ul>

<p>2. Sabbath in the synagogue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ (Possibly mention that sometimes we will still need to obey, even if it means others don't understand or are hurt, particularly unbelieving friends/family. E.g. Choosing to go to church on Sunday instead of going to a party with friends).</li> <li>• Q: Why did Jesus say that he is "Lord of the Sabbath" (v.5)</li> <li>➤ Jesus invented the Sabbath. He has the authority to say how we use it.</li> </ul> <p><b>Read Luke 6:6-7</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ On another Sabbath, Jesus is in the synagogue teaching. A man with a deformity of his right hand was there also.</li> <li>• Q: What would life have been like for a man who couldn't use his hand?</li> <li>• Q: How did the Pharisees respond to this man being in the synagogue?</li> <li>➤ We get no impression of compassion from the Pharisees. Their eyes were glued to Jesus, waiting to see if he would break another of their Sabbath laws!</li> </ul> <p><b>Read Luke 6:8-11</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q: What question did Jesus ask? What was he teaching about the Sabbath? What would that mean for the man with the deformed hand?</li> <li>• Q: What did Jesus go on to do?</li> <li>• Q: How did the Pharisees respond?</li> <li>➤ Jesus again showed by his words and actions that keeping God's laws means showing love and mercy to others.</li> <li>➤ The Pharisees thought they were keeping God's law (by not working on the Sabbath) but they didn't help someone in need.</li> <li>➤ God's laws are good, therefore keeping them will mean we do good, rather than hurting others.</li> </ul>
<p><b>So What?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q: What attitudes go with keeping of God's law Jesus' way? (Compassion, humility, love, kindness, right understanding of God) – refer to "Getting Started" activity – we can look good on the outside but this is not a true reflection of our hearts.</li> <li>• Q: What attitudes go with keeping God's law the Pharisee way? (Pride, self-centeredness, wrong understanding of God)</li> <li>• Q: How might we use obedience to God's law as a reason to get out of showing love or helping someone in need?</li> <li>• Q: What question(s) could we ask ourselves when deciding about whether it is right to do something or not, to help us figure out if we are truly keeping God's law? (E.g. Does doing this stop me from helping someone in need?)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Memory Verse</b></p>	<p><i>Micah 6:8</i>  He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.</p>

## Sunday school lesson – Lower Primary

<b>BIG IDEA</b>	God desires mercy and not sacrifice
<b>Bible Reading</b>	Luke 6:1-11
<b>Preparation</b>	<p><b>Read Luke 6:1-11</b> The question of what is “lawful” and “unlawful” is the focus of this passage (v.2, 4, 9). The context relates to the Sabbath, but the principle also applies more generally. Jesus claims to be the “Lord of the Sabbath” and therefore the one with the authority to answer this question. His answers (both in the cornfield and the synagogue) show us what kind of law-keeping is pleasing to God. In the parallel passage in Matthew 12, Jesus quotes from Hosea 6, “I desire mercy, not sacrifice”. Mere outward obedience to rules does not constitute law-keeping that pleases God, rather he is pleased with doing good and saving life (v.9). This does not negate the requirement to keep the law, as Jesus came not to abolish, but to fulfil the law (Matt 5:17). Rather, it gets at the heart of what we aim to achieve through keeping the law. If our motivation for obedience does not include a desire to show mercy and love, then we are in danger of rousing God’s anger (Mark 3:5), rather than his pleasure.</p> <p><b>Take home message:</b> God’s rules are good because he is good. It is good for us to follow God’s rules because his rules are good.</p> <p><b>Prepare for “Getting Started”:</b> Materials for making a mask</p>
<b>Getting Started</b>	Make the mask – talk about how the mask makes you look different on the outside but doesn’t change who you are.
<b>Finding Out</b> 1. Sabbath in a cornfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ One day, Jesus and his friends were walking through a field. There was corn growing all around them. They hadn’t had any lunch</li> <li>• <i>Q: How do you think they were feeling?</i></li> <li>• <i>Q: If you were feeling hungry and there was food nearby, what would you do?</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Read Luke 6:1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: What did Jesus’ friend, his disciples, do?</i></li> <li>• <i>Q: Do you think there is anything wrong with eating food when you are hungry?</i></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Some people (called Pharisees) were very angry that Jesus’ friends ate the corn.</li> </ul> <p><b>Read Luke 6:2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: Why were the Pharisees angry?</i></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ They had made up lots of rules about how to eat, and when to eat, and what you can eat. They particularly had rules about you could do on the Sabbath (which was like their Sunday). Doing any work on the Sabbath was against their rules! They thought that the disciples were working by picking the corn.</li> <li>• <i>Q: Do you think that God had made these rules, or had they just made them up?</i></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ These rules weren’t God’s rules. They were rules that they had just made up!</li> <li>➤ God doesn’t make rules that are bad for us. God only makes rules that are good for us, because he loves us and always does what is good for us. God’s rules are good because God is good.</li> </ul> <p><b>Read Luke 6:5</b></p>

<p>2. Sabbath in the synagogue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Jesus is the Lord. He is the one in charge. That means he has the right to make the rules.</li> <li>➤ Another day, Jesus was in the synagogue, which was like their church.</li> <li>➤ A man came in who had something wrong with his hand. It was so bad that he couldn't use it <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: What kind of things couldn't you do if you could only use one hand?</i></li> <li>• <i>Q: If you met someone who whose hand wasn't working, what would you want to do for them?</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Jesus saw the man and wanted to help him. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: What do you think Jesus did for the man?</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Jesus told the man to stretch out his hand. As soon as he stretched his hand out, it was all better! Jesus made it completely better straight away.</li> <li>➤ The Pharisees (the ones who had all the rules) were also in the synagogue</li> </ul> <p><b>Luke 6:11</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: How did the Pharisees feel about the man's hand being healed?</i></li> <li>➤ The Pharisees were not happy that he had been healed – they were angry! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: Why do you think they were angry?</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ They were angry because they also had rules about when and how you were allowed to help people, even people who really needed help!</li> <li>➤ Jesus didn't follow their rules – so that made them angry!</li> <li>➤ <i>Q: Were the Pharisee's rules given by God?</i></li> <li>➤ The Pharisees rules were not given by God. They just made them up</li> <li>➤ God's rules are always good. He cares about people, especially people who need help. His rules are good and help people.</li> <li>➤ If we want to follow God and obey him, that will mean that we also want to help people, especially people who are in need of help.</li> </ul>
<p><b>So What?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: Do you think we could ever make rules that are as good as God's rules?</i></li> <li>➤ God's rules are always good, because he is good. It is good for us to follow his rules because his rules are good</li> <li>• <i>Q: Can you think of some of God's rules that can be hard to obey? (e.g obeying our parents, being kind to our sisters and brothers)</i></li> <li>➤ If we remember that God's rules are good and good for us to follow then it will help us to obey, even when we find it hard.</li> <li>• <i>Q: What does it mean if we say we want to follow God, but don't care about people and are not kind to them? (Refer back to the "Getting Started" activity – if we say we follow God but don't care about people, its like wearing a mask)</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Memory Verse</b></p>	<p><i>Micah 6:8</i>  He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A man came in who had something wrong with his hand. It was so bad that he couldn't use it</li> <li>• <i>Q: What kind of things couldn't you do if you could only use one hand?</i></li> <li>• <i>Q: If you met someone whose hand wasn't working, what would you want to do for them?</i></li> <li>➤ Jesus saw the man and wanted to help him.</li> <li>• <i>Q: What do you think Jesus did for the man?</i></li> <li>➤ Jesus told the man to stretch out his hand. As soon as he stretched his hand out, it was all better! Jesus made it completely better straight away.</li> <li>➤ The Pharisees (the ones who had all the rules) were also in the synagogue</li> <li>• <i>Q: How do you think the Pharisees felt about the man's hand being healed?</i></li> <li>➤ The Pharisees were not happy that he had been healed – they were angry!</li> <li>• <i>Q: Why do you think they were angry?</i></li> <li>➤ They were angry because they also had rules about when and how you were allowed to help people, even people who really needed help!</li> <li>➤ Jesus didn't follow their rules – so that made them angry!</li> <li>➤ <i>Q: Were the Pharisee's rules given by God or did they make them up?</i></li> <li>➤ The Pharisees rules were not given by God. They just made them up</li> <li>➤ God's rules are always good. He cares about people, especially people who need help. His rules are good and help people.</li> </ul>
<b>So What?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: Do you think we could ever make rules that are as good as God's rules?</i></li> <li>➤ God's rules are always good, because he is good. It is good for us to follow his rules because his rules are good</li> <li>➤ Refer back to "Getting Started" activity – if we want to be like God, we will also care about people. If we say we follow God, but don't care about people, it is like wearing a mask.</li> <li>• <i>Q: Can you think of some of God's rules that can be hard to obey? (e.g obeying our parents, being kind to our sisters and brothers)</i></li> <li>➤ If we remember that God's rules are good and good for us to follow then it will help us to obey, even when we find it hard.</li> </ul>
<b>Memory Verse</b>	<p><i>Micah 6:8</i></p> <p>He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.</p>