



Week of July 9 - a

Scripture: Mt 11:25-30

Main Idea: Jesus prays a prayer and invites people to come to him to find rest for their souls. While Jesus is our master, he is not a harsh Lord, but a loving one. We are to submit to him, but how wonderful it is that he is gentle and his yoke (burden of responsibility) is easy and light.

Questions

Preschool: When we feel tired or stressed, who should we turn to for help? How do we ask God for help? (A: prayer)

Grade school: What's the heaviest thing you can think of? A car? A house? An airplane? Are those things heavier than our burdens? Schoolwork, being sick, maybe being bullied at school.. there are lots of burdens. It's hard to deal with some things alone. Jesus will help us if we pray and let him.

Teen: Jesus doesn't tell us life will be easy, but he does offer help. How do the weary and heavy laden find rest? What does being yoked to Jesus mean? When things get difficult do you remember that you have a helper to carry the load?

Adult: One translation says "Come to me, all of you who are struggling and are yet burdened and I will refresh you." When you are going through a trying time and see no end in sight, what is your frame of mind? Do you think that we forget to go to the Father, and that's why we continue to thrash and make no progress? Think back over your life. Have you had a difficult time and intentionally given it to God and felt peace? How can you learn from that for future struggles?

PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAY: For us to remember how loving our master, Jesus is and turn to him for help always.

July Memory Verse:

Psalm 139:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.



Week of July 9 - b

Scripture: Mt 12:1-8

Main Idea: Jesus combats the Pharisees legalism here about the Sabbath. God commanded no work to be done on the Sabbath and for his people to worship him. However, through the years the Jewish leaders had become so legalistic, they missed the point of the Sabbath. The Pharisees knew the letter of the law, but missed the heart of it.

Questions

Preschool: Imagine your parent tells you at bedtime to stop talking and go to sleep. But then a little while later you need to get up and go to the bathroom. Would it be disobeying to get up and go to the bathroom, even though you were told to go to sleep?

Grade school: The law is made up of rules. Are rules made to be broken? Generally, no. but what if you are told to 'go to bed and stay there' – what reason might you have to get up? They knew the law, the rules.. but they forgot to think about the reason the rules were put in place by God.

Teen: Jesus tells the Pharisees in Mt 9:13 to go and learn what, "I desire compassion and not sacrifice" means. He points out here in vs 7 they did not learn it, and they condemned an innocent man because of it. Why does Jesus desire compassion over sacrifice?

Adult: Have you ever eaten raw wheat? I chewed "wheat gum" in my childhood. I have to say that's pretty hungry. You have to get the kernels out of the awn (the spiky thing on the wheat head) to get enough wheat to dull the hunger. The Pharisees were following Jesus. Do you think the Pharisees had food? If they had food, why didn't they share with Jesus and the disciples? What does this tell us about their motives? Have you known someone who was so spiteful that they would not help someone in true need? What lessons might we learn from that type of person?

PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAY: For God to help us stop being legalistic and missing the purpose of his commands, but to follow God and have compassions on the hurting.

July Memory Verse:

Psalm 139:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.