



## A. Matthew 12.9-14 (Part 1)

*Use the following information, along with the information in your text about the Sabbath (page 95), to develop a short skit.*

*Characters: Jesus, man with a crippled hand, Jesus' followers, pharisees (optional: narrator)*

Jesus enters the synagogue on the Sabbath. There is a man there whose hand is crippled. The people want to know if Jesus will heal the man. The crippled hand is not a life-threatening illness. Jesus could wait until the next day to heal the man.

Jesus' followers and the pharisees discuss whether Jesus is a faithful Jew. The disciples say he is. They remember that he said, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill them." The pharisees say Jesus is not a faithful Jew because he breaks Jewish law.

*In your skit, be sure to include some dialogue about the Sabbath based on the information in your text.*

Jesus calls the man with the crippled hand forward. Everyone stops to see what he will do. (At this point, the action freezes.)

## Matthew 12.9-14 (Part 2)

*Complete your role play using the following information:*

Jesus does not agree with those who might think that the Sabbath laws are irrelevant. He also does not agree with those who insist that nothing unnecessary be done on the Sabbath.

Jesus challenges the pharisees' understanding of the law:

Jesus reminds the pharisees that the Sabbath law needs to be interpreted in light of the situation.

He reminds them that they have said that it is okay to lift a sheep out of a pit if it falls in on the Sabbath. He reminds them that they interpret the law as saying that people should do things that are necessary for good to be accomplished. Jesus calls people to consider the reason that the law exists before they try to apply it.

Jesus supports the existence of the Sabbath law by explaining its purpose: The law about not working on the Sabbath exists for the benefit of human beings, to ensure that no one is overworked and separated from God by exhaustion. The purpose of the Sabbath is to bring people closer to God.

Jesus tells the man with the crippled hand to stretch out his hand. The man is able to do so. He is cured.

The man with the crippled hand would not have been able to participate in certain religious and community activities because of his deformity, which was believed to be a punishment from God. By healing the man's hand, Jesus draws him into a closer relationship with God and with others.

The pharisees are angry with Jesus because he does not see things their way.

## B. Matthew 8.1-4 (Part 1)

*Use the following information, along with the information in your text about leprosy (pages 95-96), to develop a short skit.*

*Characters: Jesus, a man with leprosy, Jesus' disciples, crowd members (optional: narrator)*

Jesus comes down from the mountain with his disciples. A large crowd follows them. A leper approaches Jesus and kneels in front of him. The leper says, "Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean." (At this point, the action freezes.)

*In your skit, be sure to act out the crowd's response to the leper and include some dialogue about leprosy based on the information in your text.*

## Matthew 8.1-4 (Part 2)

*Complete your role play using the following information:*

Jesus does nothing spectacular, nothing that would give the impression that he is a magician.

Instead, he reaches out and touches the leper and says, "I do choose. Be made clean."

Right away, the leprosy leaves the man. Then Jesus says: "Say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as testimony to them." (In other words, Jesus tells the man to go and rejoin the Jewish community.)

## C. Luke 19.1-10 (Part 1)

*Use the following information, along with the information in your text about tax collectors (pages 96-97), to prepare a short skit.*

*Characters: Jesus, Jesus' disciples, followers of the pharisees, Zacchaeus (optional: narrator)*

Jesus and his disciples enter the town of Jericho. A great crowd is gathered to see this famous man. Zacchaeus, a local tax collector, wants to see Jesus but he is too short. He climbs a tree and looks down on the street where Jesus is passing. When Jesus gets to the tree, he stops and looks up. All of the people watching Jesus look up too. They see Zacchaeus. They know him and they know what he does. (The action freezes here.)

*In your skit, be sure to include some dialogue about tax collectors based on the information in your text.*

## Luke 19.1-10 (Part 2)

*Complete your role play using the following information:*

Jesus says: "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today."

Zacchaeus comes down. The people in the crowd begin to complain because Jesus is going to the house of such a terrible sinner.

Zacchaeus promises to give half of what he owns to the poor and to pay back to anyone he cheated four times as much as he took.

Jesus responds: "Today salvation has come to this house, because Zacchaeus too is a son of Abraham. The Son of Man came to seek out and save the lost."

## D. Luke 10.38-42 (Part 1)

*Use the following information, along with the information in your text about women (page 97), to develop a short skit.*

*Characters: Jesus, Mary, Martha, some disciples (optional: narrator)*

Jesus is sitting talking about the kingdom of God. Mary and the other disciples are sitting at his feet listening to him. Martha is busy doing housework. She comes up to Jesus and says, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." (The action freezes here.)

*(Note: Be sure to make it clear that Mary's behaviour is very unusual in her culture and that Martha is just asking Jesus to tell Mary to do what is expected of her. Include some dialogue on the "proper" role of women in first-century Jewish society based on the information in your text.)*

## Luke 10.38-42 (Part 2)

*Complete your role play using the following information:*

Jesus says, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."