

Connecting People to Jesus Week 4

John 5:9-18 Jesus Breaks the Sabbath

What's one extra day? The man had been waiting for healing for 38 years and to heal him right then and there would be breaking one of the rules the religious leaders had created to protect the command of not breaking the Sabbath. Jesus could have told him he'd be better tomorrow morning. Or at sundown when the Sabbath was over. But instead, Jesus immediately helped this guy and spoke the truth about God at work in the world through him at great personal risk. "For this reason, the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God." He was going against the cultural norms and expectations to help someone. It seems like Jesus deliberately did this on the Sabbath, in a very public place, and furthermore instructed the man to break the Sabbath too by commanding him to pick up his mat which was considered "work" by the religious leaders.

Have you ever witnessed someone break cultural norms or taboos to help someone else in need?

Not too long ago, in a sermon Michael said "it's better to be good, than to be right." How have you seen that to be true?

Through Jesus, God is bringing "new creation" and setting all things right. How does sharing our faith with others fit into God's "new creation"?

How does helping others and sharing our faith fit together?

Who is one person that you know that really needs God's "new creation" in their life?

What is one tangible way you could be more intentional in relationship with them? Specifically, how could you serve, bless, care, and share with them?