Is It Lawful to Do Good on the Sabbath? (Luke 6:6-11)

I.	A Day for Worship, Teaching, and Learning (6; Heb. 10:25; Mt. 11:28-30)
II.	The Pharisees <i>Watch</i> Jesus—Do You Come to Learn or to Criticize? (7; Acts 17:11)
III.	Are Acts of Mercy Lawful on the Sabbath? (8-9; Jas. 2:8; 1 Jn. 4:7-8, 20; 3:17-18)
IV.	Healed through Faith in Jesus! (9-10; Eph. 2:1; Rom. 8:8; Jn. 15:5)
V.	Jesus Publicly Rebukes and Confronts the Pharisees, and They Are Enraged! (8-9, 11; Jn. 6:37; Mt. 11:28-30)
	Questions for Family Discussion
•	Is it possible to become <u>enslaved</u> to earthly work? How does God's gift of the Sabbath free us from such slavery? How does taking on the yoke of Jesus' teaching prove to bring rest , rather than weariness ? (Mt. 11:28-30) Do you ever come to church intending to be critical , like the Pharisees? Why is such an attitude so destructive? When are <u>acts of mercy</u> <i>lawful</i> ? When are they <i>unlawful</i> ? What are some acts of mercy you will commit to do? Jesus heals the man by telling him to " <i>stretch out your hand</i> ", which he is unable to do. How does this illustrate the way God saves us? What things does Christ command you to do, which you are able to do only by His power?

Can we reason people into the kingdom with intellectual arguments? Is sin logical? How is salvation possible?

Mark #1: Pure Preaching of the Gospel (Romans 1:16-17; Galatians 1:6-9)

- I. True & False <u>Churches</u>, True & False <u>Christians</u> (Mt. 7:21; Lk. 12:47-48; Heb. 10:26-31)
- II. The Pure Preaching of the Gospel (**Gal 1:8-9**; Jn. 8:31; 10:27; 2 Jn. 9)

- III. What Is the **Gospel** of Jesus Christ?
 - 1. Sola Scriptura (Jas. 1:21; 2 Ti 3:14-15)
 - 2. Solus Christus (1 Ti. 2:5; Acts 4:12; 1 Cor. 15:3-4)
 - 3. Sola Fide (Rom. 3:21-25)
 - 4. Sola Gratia (Eph. 2:8-9)
 - 5. Soli Deo Gloria (Ps. 3:8; Rom. 9:16)
- IV. What Is the <u>Pure</u> Gospel? (Rev. 22:18-19; 2 Pet. 2:1; Mt. 6:19-20, 33; Col. 3:2; Jn. 14:6)
- V. What Is the **Preaching** of the Gospel? (Acts 20:31; 2 Tim. 2:15; Jas. 3:1; Rom. 10:14-17; **1:16**)

Questions for Family Discussion

- Should we choose a church based on its <u>size</u>, the <u>friendliness of its members</u>, the <u>style of music</u>, the <u>activities and programs</u>, or because <u>our friends and family attend there</u>? How can choosing by these criteria be **dangerous**?
- Can a church be true if it *lacks* the <u>pure preaching of the gospel?</u> Why is this <u>the **most** important</u> of the 3 marks?
- How do the five Solas help us define the true gospel? Are all five of these Solas *essential*? Why or why not?
- Some false gospels include the <u>Social Gospel</u>, the <u>Prosperity Gospel</u>, <u>Universalism</u>, <u>Moralism</u>, and <u>Antinomianism</u>. Describe each of them, and explain how they contradict the true gospel, and why we must reject them.
- Should preaching be different from lecturing? How? Should a sermon ever end without making an authoritative claim on your life? Can a faithful sermon simply <u>declare</u> the gospel, <u>without demanding</u> that you respond to it?
- Is the gospel faithfully preached at Bellingham URC? Do you treasure & actively receive the gospel each Sabbath?

Belgic Confession Art. 29a: We believe that we ought to discern diligently and very carefully, by the Word of God, what is the true church—for all sects in the world today claim for themselves the name of "the church."

We are not speaking here of the company of hypocrites who are mixed among the good in the church and who nonetheless are not part of it, even though they are physically there.

But we are speaking of distinguishing the body and fellowship of the true church from all sects that call themselves "the church."

The true church can be recognized if it has the following marks: The church engages in the pure preaching of the gospel; it makes use of the pure administration of the sacraments as Christ instituted them; it practices church discipline for correcting faults.

In short, it governs itself according to the pure Word of God, rejecting all things contrary to it and holding Jesus Christ as the only Head. By these marks one can be assured of recognizing the true church—and no one ought to be separated from it.