



Believe

the gospel of John

John 5:17-45

Use these questions to prepare for Sunday, March 19.

1. The Sabbath was a gift given to us by God to limit our busyness and refocus our lives (See Mark 2:27). What do you do on the Sabbath that is different from other days?
2. Are you too busy? Is your life focused on things that really matter? What specifically can you do to honor the Sabbath more in your life?
3. The people who opposed Jesus were often people who practiced legalism. What do you think legalism means?
4. In verse 18, what did the “legalists” want to do to Jesus? Why did they want to do that? Remember that the Sabbath is meant to help us refocus on God. Why is it ironic that the “legalists” were using the Sabbath to condemn Jesus?
5. Would you say that you are legalistic? Why or why not? (See Matt. 7:1-5)
6. In the stories we are reading, Jesus often says something that pushes people away, especially if they don’t believe in him. What examples of that do you see in this passage?
7. In verses 36-40, Jesus names three sources of information that confirm who He is. Can you name them, and how does their testimony help us today?
8. People read and study the Scripture for all sorts of reasons. What should be the main reason for studying the Scriptures?
9. How is studying the Book of John helping you know, love, and believe the things God intends for you?

Suggestions if you are doing this with kids:

- *This is the last week for our John 3:16 memory verse: **For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.***
- *Play a game of “plus or minus” with the kids to make it more fun. You’ll need a die and something to keep score on. Roll the die. Whatever you roll is how many points the question is worth (1=1,000 2=2,000 etc.) But you get to decide if you will keep your points or subtract that many points from someone else.*
- *Mark the verses you want to read, but leave a few for kids to look up and read.*