

## Royal Redeemer Going Deeper Guide

Based on the sermon for November 27, 2022  
*We Need A Little Christmas: Restoration*

**For personal reflection or for use as a devotion with CGS Community or family**



- **CONNECT** *with each other*

- Christmas is awesome. It's wonderful. It's exciting. What are you looking forward to this holiday season? Christmas also has lots of challenges. Is there anything you are dreading?

- **GROW** *in Christ*

*Going on from that place, he went into their synagogue, 10 and a man with a shriveled hand was there. Looking for a reason to bring charges against Jesus, they asked him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"*

*11 He said to them, "If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? 12 How much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."*

*13 Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other. 14 But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.*

**Matthew 12:9-14**

1. What strikes you about this passage? What questions do you have?
2. Restoration is a major theme in the scriptures that describes the disconnect people have felt over the years between what they desire and what they experience. Read Psalm 85. Where do you need a little restoration this holiday season?
3. Jesus went onto the Pharisees turf and was immediately questioned. Where do you feel out of place, on the defensive, in your life right now?
4. Jesus points out the hypocrisy in the Pharisees interpretation of the sabbath. They were more concerned with saving an animal than a human. Where is the Christian church in America hypocritical right now? What would be a step in the right direction?
5. Jesus does a miracle and restores a man's withered hand. The GREAT NEWS is: Jesus can restore us, too! We all need restoration somewhere in our lives: So let's look at 3 things we can learn from the story about restoration.
  - Restoration begins with a transformation.
  - Restoration comes at a cost.
  - Restoration requires a stretch.

6. Where's God inviting you to stretch?

- **SERVE** *others*

- The holiday season is so full of activities, obligations, and good intentions. Perhaps the best way you can serve others this holiday season is to cut unnecessary things from your schedule. Look at your calendar and your finances for the month of December and ask, am I able to serve others if I do all of this? Consider reducing your obligations to make room for the ways God will prompt you this month.

- **End with Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, or a short blessing.**