

Early Word
Sunday March 22nd, 2020, Lent 4A
Living water, giving hope.

Today we are thinking about a bible story where Jesus heals a man who had been blind from birth (John (1-41)).

Some people in the story called Pharisees are keen to follow rules, and sometimes this meant that people were not looked after the way they should have been.

The story I invite you to listen to today is called *Ten Rules You Absolutely Must Not Break if You Want to Survive the School Bus* by John Grandits.

You can click on the following link. You need to press the CTRL button while you click on it and it should take you straight to the Youtube clip. If not copy the link and paste it in Youtube search bar.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eneVp1Jy6HY>

Riding the bus for the first time can be a very nerve racking experience.

Kyle is lucky enough to have an older brother who lays out everything he must not do while riding the bus.

Kyle ends up breaking every rule along the way, which leads to a big change benefiting everyone.

In the end, Kyle writes a new rule.

In the Gospel passage, the Pharisees are so focused on the rule that has been broken they are unable to see the miracle that has happened, a blind man healed.

Like Kyle's brother, the Pharisees look to the rules to guide their every move. The rules are seen as the things you must absolutely follow to honour God.

Jesus, on the other hand, sees the rules more as guidelines. They are there to help you make decisions, but he is writing a new rule.

His new rule places the well being of people over the rules.

Sometimes rules need to be broken, when the outcome benefits others.

Here is a prayer you can say together:

God, help me follow rules that help others.

Help me think carefully about rules that are not good for people before I decide whether to follow them or not.

Especially at this tricky time with the Corona virus, help me look after the people I love and who love me. Amen.