

Bible Stories for Adults

Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

Luke 6:1-11

Opening

Gathering: Why is it important for Christians to go to church regularly?

Today's Focus: Jesus explained that God commands us to remember the Sabbath for our sakes.

Key Verses: *Jesus said to them, "I ask you, which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?"* Luke 6:9

The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. Mark 2:27

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Remember The Sabbath Day (*Exodus 20:8-11*)

What is the third of God's moral commands dealing with keeping our relationship with Him?

Exodus 20:8

What is the Sabbath day?

Exodus 20:9-10a

Sabbath (From Hebrew "shabath") means "to cease, desist, rest". Why did God call it the Sabbath day?

Exodus 20:10b

What if we can't get all of our work done in six days? Is it really possible to rest on the 7th day?

Exodus 20:11

Purposes of the Sabbath (*Leviticus 23:3*)

What is an obvious purpose of observing the Sabbath?

Leviticus 23:3a

What is a more important purpose of observing the Sabbath?

Leviticus 23:3b

What does God promise if we remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy?

Isaiah 58:13-14

How else does God promise to bless us through observing the Sabbath?

Ezekiel 20:12

How does the Sabbath help us grow in our relationship with God?

Ezekiel 20:20

How do we see this in the Deuteronomy record of the third commandment?

Deuteronomy 5:15

Sabbath Days (*Exodus 16*)

Was the idea of resting on the seventh day one that God developed for the Israelites on Sinai?

Genesis 2:1-3

God rested because He was finished, not tired

How did the Jews define the beginning and the end of the Sabbath day?

Genesis 1:31 (Leviticus 23:32)

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Sabbath Weeks, Months and Years (*Leviticus 23, 25*)

When is the first time we see the Sabbath rest formally observed?

Exodus 16:14-15, 19-20, 23-26

How was a Sabbath of seven associated with the great celebration of the Passover?

Leviticus 23:5-8

How were the Israelites to celebrate God's providence through crops in a Sabbath of 7 weeks?

Leviticus 23:10-11, 15-16, 21 (9-22)

How were the Israelites to celebrate God in a Sabbath in the 7th month?

Leviticus 23:23-25

What other special remembrances did God command during this 7th month Sabbath?

Leviticus 23:26-28, 32 (26-32)

Leviticus 23:33-35 (33-44)

How were the Israelites to celebrate God in a Sabbath of 7 years?

Leviticus 25:1-4 (1-7)

What other 7th year observances were the Israelites to keep?

Exodus 21:2

Deuteronomy 15:1-2, 9 (1-11)

How were the Israelites to especially celebrate a Sabbath every 7 Sabbath years?

Leviticus 25:8-10 (8-17)

What happened to the land of Israel during the Jews' exile to Babylon?

2 Chronicles 36:20-21 (Jeremiah 25:11-12)

How would the Jews receive a Sabbath of rest after waiting years for the Messiah?

Daniel 9:24-25

Importance of the Sabbath (*Exodus 31:13-18*)

How important was it for the Jews to keep the Sabbath day?

Exodus 31:15 (13-15)

How long would the Jews have to keep the Sabbath?

Exodus 31:16-17

How did God punctuate the importance of this command?

Exodus 31:18

Was it ever acceptable to do any work on the Sabbath?

Exodus 34:21

The Wages of Ignoring the Sabbath (*Nehemiah 13:15-22*)

Were the curses of ignoring the Sabbath directed only at the individuals who didn't keep it?

Ezekiel 20:23-24

How was this further reinforced in the last days before the Jews were exiled?

Jeremiah 17:21-25a, 27 (19-27)

What did Nehemiah see after the Jews returned from exile that upset him?

Nehemiah 13:15-17

How did Nehemiah convince the Jews to stop working on the Sabbath?

Nehemiah 13:18

How did he make sure a few unrighteous didn't spoil it for everyone else?

Nehemiah 13:19-22

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Black and White Laws (*Ezekiel 20:25*)

What did the Jews do to make sure God wouldn't punish them as severely again?

Nehemiah 9:38; 10:29-31

What else did they do to make sure the law wasn't accidentally disobeyed?

Nehemiah 8:7a, 7c-8

"Oral Law" - Religious leaders attempted to make black & white limits for every situation

What did Jesus have to say about these Oral Laws?

Matthew 23:1-4, 13

Why did God allow this to happen?

Ezekiel 20:25-26

Working on the Sabbath

Jews identified 39 works which were prohibited on the Sabbath by the Scripture

Each of these *father-works* had many *descendant-works* defined by rabbis

Examples from last week:

Father-work

Plowing

Carrying a burden

Reaping

Descendant works

Digging, Dragging a chair (might make a rut)

Tailor carrying needle, Scribe carrying pen

Plucking a head of wheat, Pulling out a gray hair

Jesus "Works" On the Sabbath (*Luke 6:1-11; Matthew 12:1-14; Mark 2:23-3:6*)

When is the first time we see Jesus "working" on the Sabbath?

Mark 1:21-26, 30-31

What response resulted from this Sabbath work?

Mark 1:28, 32

What is the next Sabbath work we see from Jesus?

John 5:1, 5, 8-9 (1-9)

What response resulted from this Sabbath work?

John 5:10-11, 16 (10-18)

How did Jesus respond to their concern for the sanctity of the Sabbath?

John 7:21-24

What upset the Jewish leaders in today's story?

Luke 6:1-2

How did Jesus attempt to guide them to a better understanding of the truth of the Sabbath?

Luke 6:3-5

What other example did He give in Matthew's version of this story?

Matthew 12:5-8

Did this satisfy them?

Matthew 12:9-10 (Luke 6:6-7)

How did Jesus respond to their rejection of the truth?

Matthew 12:11-13 (Luke 6:8-10)

Did this satisfy them?

Matthew 12:14 (Luke 6:11)

What did Jesus say in Mark's version of the story that helps explain the purpose of the Sabbath?

Mark 2:27

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Did Jesus Observe the Sabbath? (*Matthew 5:17-18*)

Did Jesus observe the Sabbath?

Luke 4:16

Why don't we continue to observe the Sabbaths as the Jews did? Did Jesus abolish them?

Matthew 5:17-18

How did this affect the requirements of God's old covenant with His people?

Hebrews 9:15

What happened to God's laws under this new covenant?

Hebrews 8:6-10

Does this mean that we don't have to keep God's laws?

Romans 8:3-4

The Sabbath Rest for Christians (*Hebrews 4:1-11*)

If Jesus fulfilled the Sabbath, does that mean that everyone automatically receives His Sabbath rest?

Hebrews 4:1-2, 6 (1-6)

So is there still a Sabbath day of rest for those who have faith in Christ?

Hebrews 4:7-9

So when is that Sabbath day of rest?

Hebrews 4:3a, 10-11

Christians and the Sabbath Day (*Colossians 2:16-3:2*)

How are we to respond to those who insist that we keep the Sabbath as commanded at Sinai?

Colossians 2:16-17

Should we try to follow these commands anyway?

Colossians 2:20-23

Should we work to correct our misguided brothers who believe certain days are more holy?

Romans 14:5-6 (*Galatians 4:10-11*)

How are we then to treat such rules and regulations on how to relate to God?

Colossians 3:1-2

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. How often do I devote a day of Sabbath to the Lord?
(*Exodus 20:8-11; Leviticus 23:3; Isaiah 56:1-8; 58:13-14; Ezekiel 20:12-20*)
2. In what ways have I realized the rest that God offers to me?
(*Exodus 33:12-14; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; 1 Chronicles 22:9; Psalm 16:9-11; 62:1-2; 90:17; Isaiah 11:10; 30:15; 32:15-18; Matthew 11:28-30; Revelation 14:13*)
3. When have I used a law or tradition as an excuse for not doing good when I could?
(*Matthew 12:5-13; 1 Samuel 15; Isaiah 1:11-17; Mark 7:6-13; 12:33; Luke 6:9; John 7:21-24*)
4. What do I do to ensure that I will not fall short of entering God's rest?
(*Hebrews 4:1-11; Numbers 14:21-35; John 14:1-6; Galatians 3:1-14; Ephesians 2:8-10; Philippians 2:12-13*)
5. What traditions do I carefully follow because I feel I have to?
(*Colossians 2:8, 16-3:2; Matthew 23; Mark 7:1-23; Romans 14:5-6*)