

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY OUTLINE

I. SABBATH COMPLAINT (MATTHEW 12:1-2)

1. Where does this week's lesson take place? What day of the week? Matthew 12:1a (Most Biblical scholars believe this event took place in Capernaum or in the area of Galilee. See Map on page 3. Mark 2:1, 23)
2. What did Jesus' disciples who were with Him do while they were walking through the grainfields on the Sabbath? Matthew 12:1b
3. Which Jewish religious sect complained about what Jesus' disciples did on the Sabbath? Matthew 12:2a
4. What did the Pharisees accuse Jesus' disciples of doing as they walked through the grainfields? Matthew 12:2b
5. Why do you think the Pharisees knew what the disciples had done? Mark 3:2
6. Who were the Pharisees? Use a Bible Dictionary. [Pharisees (separated ones) - a religious and political party in Palestine in New Testament times. The Pharisees were known for insisting that the law of God be observed as the scribes interpreted it and for their special commitment to keeping the laws of tithing and ritual purity.] Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary
7. Which commandment did the Pharisees believe Jesus' disciples were violating? Exodus 20:8-11
8. When was the Jewish Sabbath observed? (It began at sundown Friday and ended at sundown Saturday. It was a day of rest and worship.)
9. What day do most Christians observe as a day of rest and worship? Why?
Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 _____
Matthew 28:1-6 _____
10. What do most Christians call its day of rest and worship? Revelation 1:10
11. Why did the Pharisees believe the disciples were guilty of reaping, threshing, and preparing food which to them were acts that broke the law of the Sabbath? Luke 6:1

12. What was the punishment for breaking the Sabbath? Exodus 31:15
13. Was what the disciples did permissible under the Mosaic Law? Deuteronomy 23:24-25
14. How do you think the Lord's Day should be observed today? What are some things Christians in the past refused to do on the Lord's Day?

II. JESUS' RESPONSE TO THE PHARISEES (MATTHEW 12:3-5)

15. What two examples did Jesus give in response to the Pharisees' charges against His disciples of breaking the Sabbath? Matthew 12:3-5

vv. 3-4 _____

v. 5 _____

16. What did Jesus want the Pharisees to understand? (Consider the following: spirit of the law versus letter of the law; human need versus legalism; a person versus the Sabbath; doing holy service.)

III. LORD OF THE SABBATH (MATTHEW 12:6-8)

17. What did Jesus say to the Pharisees about the Temple? To whom was Jesus referring? Matthew 12:6 (Malachi 3:1; Hebrews 3:3)
18. What did Jesus say the Pharisees should have known and focused on about God and His Word? What would this prevent? What verse did Jesus quote? Matthew 12:7 (Hosea 6:6)
19. What claim did Jesus make about Himself? Matthew 12:8

IV. SHOWING MERCY ON THE SABBATH (MATTHEW 12:9-14)

20. Where did Jesus and His disciples go after the incident in the grainfields? Matthew 12:9
21. Research in a Bible Dictionary the Jewish synagogue. ("The synagogue is the congregation of Jews for worship or religious study. The word synagogue comes from the Greek *sunagoge* (literally, 'a leading or bringing together'), which refers to any assembly or gathering of people for secular or religious purposes. Eventually the term came to refer exclusively to an assembly of Jewish people. The synagogue was a place where local groups of Jews in cities and villages anywhere could gather for the reading and explanation of the Jewish sacred Scriptures and for prayer. The original emphasis was not on preaching but instruction in the Law of Moses." The Jewish synagogue originated during the Babylonian captivity when the Jews had no temple to worship in. It normally took a minimum number of 10 Jewish adult men to establish a synagogue. Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)
22. What was the condition of the man Jesus encountered as he entered the synagogue? Matthew 12:10a
23. What question did the Pharisees ask Jesus as He entered the synagogue? Why? Matthew 12:10b
24. What did Jesus know about those watching Him? Luke 6:8a
25. What did Jesus ask the Pharisees so as to challenge them about their understanding of the Sabbath? Matthew 12:11
26. What point was Jesus making when He questioned the Pharisees about a sheep in a pit on the Sabbath? Matthew 12:12
- v. 12a _____
- v. 12b _____
27. What did Jesus instruct the man with the withered hand to do? What was the result? Matthew 12:13
28. What did the Jewish religious and political leaders decide to do to Jesus after He healed the man with the withered hand on the Sabbath? Matthew 12:14; Mark 3:6; Luke 6:11

MAP OF GALILEE

