

Lesson

2

Rule: Keep God's Day Special

BIBLE BASIS

God commands that one day should serve a special purpose (Exod. 20:8-11). Jesus worships on God's day and helps a crippled man (Matt. 12:9-15).

BIBLE TRUTH

God's rules set aside a day each week in which to give Him special honor.

MEMORY VERSE:

"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy."
Exodus 20:8.

LESSON AIM

That your students will make Sunday a special day to honor God.

2

1

LIFE NEED (5-10 MINUTES)

Participate in an action story and discuss why God's day is special.

2

BIBLE LEARNING (15-20 MINUTES)

Bible Words: Learn more about what Bible-time people did on the Sabbath.

■ Materials: *My Bible Book* p. 7, Bible Overview Chart Teaching Aid, Bibles

Bible Story: Hear the story of Jesus teaching people to keep the Sabbath and helping a crippled man.

■ Materials: Bibles

Bible Review: Answer questions and identify behaviors that show ways to keep God's day holy; review commandments already taught.

■ Materials: *My Bible Book* pp. 8-9, pencils



Memory Work: Learn the memory verse.

■ Materials: Bibles, soft foam ball

3

BIBLE APPLICATION (5-10 MINUTES)

Identify present-day children who are keeping God's day special.

■ Materials: "God's Ten Commandments" Teaching Aid, *My Bible Book* p. 10, pencils

4

LIFE RESPONSE (5-10 MINUTES)

Create a puzzle as a reminder to keep God's day special.



■ Materials: *Elementary Kid Crafts* for Lesson 2—sample made before class, DisKit CD, and CD player, *Friends* for Lesson 2



This symbol means extra preparation or supplies are needed.



Understanding the Bible

Overview of This Quarter: We continue our study of God's rules with a lesson about the Sabbath. Jesus' example of healing on the Sabbath illustrates God's intentions for this special day. Next week we learn about honoring our parents. The final two lessons deal with respecting the belongings of others and being honest. Then we begin a unit on redemption.

This Week's Bible Story: On the Sabbath, the Jewish day set aside for rest and worship, Jesus was doing just that—although a bit differently than some expected. By the time of Jesus' ministry, many regulations were made about the command to keep the Sabbath holy. These were put in place because the Jewish people wanted to be certain they obeyed God's commands. However, having so many rules to follow didn't help anyone.

To us, healing someone by God's power is a way to honor God. But the rules made in Bible-times said acts of kindness were work. Jesus challenged this rule by healing a man with a crippled hand.

This story teaches two purposes of God's command to keep the Sabbath holy. One purpose was human well-being—for rest (Exod. 20:8-11). God did not want us to work without rest. He gave us this command for our good, to keep us from overworking too hard and to keep us from working just to get more things.

The other reason for this command has to do with remembering God and the salvation He has brought to us, just as He saved the Israelites from Egypt (Deut. 5:12-15). Sometimes our lives are so busy we forget about God. God is so wise to make one day a week to worship Him and to rest. If we obey Him, our lives will honor God.

Most Christians do not celebrate the Jewish custom of worshiping on the Sabbath (which is Saturday). Our special day of worship is Sunday, like the early churches who gathered on "the Lord's day"—the day Jesus was raised from the dead. It's important that we have a day to worship and honor God!

Understanding Your Students

Some elementary age children may not fully understand what true worship is. Some of them may not attend church services regularly; others may scribble on church bulletins or whisper to their friends during the morning worship hour.

However, keep in mind that elementary students are capable of real worship. They can experience worship right in the classroom. As you teach your students about honoring God on His day, you can motivate them to want to worship Him. As you provide classroom worship opportunities, you can help them learn how to participate.

Classroom Tips

Here are some tips for bringing worship into your class time.

- An open Bible on the table, or a praise song playing as the children arrive can prepare your class for an opening worship time.
- Allow spontaneous praise. If a student mentions an answer to prayer, take a minute to sing a familiar praise song or say a group thank-You prayer.
- Include worship in your Bible lesson by using memory verses or a responsive reading.
- Make your closing time worshipful. Suggestions for group prayer or a reverent closing song are often given in Closing Activities (found on the last page of each lesson).
- Let the children watch you worship God in the classroom. As you sing joyfully, pray unselfishly, and speak God's Word with reverence, the children will pick up your ways.

Pre-session Activities

Choose from the following activities for early arrivers.

- Have students mark their attendance.

Materials: Summer Attendance Chart.

- To help prepare the children for today's Bible story about Jesus teaching the temple leaders about remembering God's special day, set out a copy of the Commandment Game from Kid Crafts, Lesson 1, used last week. Let early arrivers play the game to practice the Ten Commandments. Encourage the children to take turns so everyone has a chance to participate.



"Attendance Chart" Teaching Aid

Materials: "Commandment Game" already assembled from *Elementary Kid Crafts*

- Make a Worship Time booklet. Fold two sheets of construction paper in half, placing one inside the other. Fill the pages with Bible verses or words to favorite songs.

Materials: construction paper, stapler, markers

- For Worship Time: Sing "Rules Are His Tools" on the DiskIt CD from Creative Teaching Aids packet.

Materials: DiskIt CD, CD player



Elementary Kid Crafts, Lesson 1



1

Life Need 5–10 minutes

Objective: That your students will understand why Sunday is special.

This activity will help your students prepare for the Bible story about how Jesus honored God on His special day.

I'm going to read a story about a girl named Imani. Imani's favorite day is Sunday. Every time I point to you during the story, I want you all to jump up and say "Sunday!" Then sit down again. Okay? Let's practice. *Point to the children.*

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday—would it ever end? Imani couldn't wait until the week was over. Thursday came and went, and then Friday. Saturday was fun because she could sleep late, but her favorite day of the week was *(point to children)!*

Imani liked to go to church on *(point).* **She saw her friends and had fun at** *(point)* **school. She liked to sing and to memorize the Bible. She was in a children's choir that sang every other** *(point).* **And sometimes a friend came home with her after church to play.**

Imani's mama cooked a special dinner on *(point).* **Sometimes her Grandma and Grandpa came for dinner. One** *(point)* **they had a picnic at the park.**

Almost every *(point)* **Imani's family did something special together. They went for a walk, watched a special TV program, or played a game.**

Imani loved *(point).* **She wished every day could be** *(point)!*

- Imani's special day is Sunday. Why do we have holidays and other special days?** *(So we can remember something special that happened on that day, to celebrate someone or something, to share a special time with family or friends, etc.)*

- What are other special days that your family might celebrate that have a special meaning just for you?** *(Your students may have some special days that are important for just their family. Their ideas may include an anniversary, an adoption, etc.)*

Jesus kept one day special too. Let's learn about that day and what He did to keep it special.

2

Bible Learning 15–20 minutes

Objective: That your students will learn from Jesus' example how to honor God's day.



My Bible Book, page 7

We use some special words when we talk about God's day. Let's be sure we know what those words mean before we listen to our Bible story today.

Distribute *My Bible Book* and have students look at page 7. **First, there's the word worship. Let's read the definition out loud together.**

■ **What are some of the ways we worship God in Sunday school?** (*Sing, pray, give an offering, and listen to God's Word.*)

Sabbath is another special word. The words Sabbath day are found a lot in the Bible.

■ **What do the Ten Commandments say about the Sabbath day?** (*Let children suggest answers before having a volunteer read the definition.*)

In Bible times, God's special day was called the Sabbath. Feel free to share some of the information about the Sabbath from the Understanding the Bible section on page 16.

Now let's look at the word synagogue. Another volunteer may read this definition.

■ **Where do we meet to worship God?** (*Church building.*)

The last word we're going to look at is the word holy. Once again, read the definition aloud. Then ask students to read the speech balloons.

Ask for four volunteers to find different things on the Bible Overview Chart Teaching Aid. Ask the first person to find the Old Testament; another to find Exodus, a third to find the New Testament, and the last to find Matthew. Talk about how today's Bible story comes

from both the Old and New Testaments.

Have the children find Exodus 20:8 in their Bibles and bookmark it for later use. If you have children who are unsure of its location, remind them to turn to the table of contents in the front of their Bibles to find the page number for Exodus.



Bible Overview Chart Teaching Aid

BIBLE STORY

God gave His people the Ten Commandments so that everyone would know how He wanted them to live. God gave the commandments because He loved His people. Sometimes His people weren't sure how to obey the commandments. That's one reason why God sent Jesus—so that people could see the way Jesus obeyed God's commandments. Then they would know how to obey God too.

Let's read one of God's commandments. *Have the children read Exodus 20:8 aloud together. They should keep the verse marked to use during Memory Work.* "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy" (Exod. 20:8). God wanted people to make one day each week a special day. This special day is called the Sabbath so people did not do their regular work. They had time to rest, worship, and spend time with their families.

Jesus showed the way to keep the Sabbath day holy. No matter where He traveled, Jesus always went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day. The synagogue was a place where people met to worship. They would thank God and pray and hear the Scriptures read.

Meeting together to worship God is one way to keep the Sabbath day holy.

Sometimes when Jesus was at the synagogue on the Sabbath day, He would make sick people well again. When the leaders of the synagogue saw this, some of them became angry. These leaders were called the Pharisees. They had made lots of rules about the commandments.

"The commandments say we should keep the Sabbath day holy and not do any work," said the Pharisees. "Jesus is doing work when He heals people. That is against our law."

The Pharisees decided to watch Jesus carefully on the Sabbath day. "We'll see if He breaks any of our laws," they said.

At the synagogue one Sabbath day there was a man with a crippled hand. This hand was smaller than the man's other hand. The man couldn't pick anything up with this hand.

When the Pharisees saw the man with the crippled hand, they began to whisper to each other. "Look at that man. He has a crippled hand. Let's see if Jesus will heal him on the Sabbath day."

Jesus looked at the man and said, "Stand up so everyone can see you."

The man stood up. What's going to happen? he may have wondered.

Then Jesus said to the Pharisees, "I want to ask you a question. Is it right to do good or to do bad on the Sabbath day? Is it good to save life or to kill? If you had a sheep that fell into a hole on the Sabbath day, would you lift it out?"

The Pharisees would not answer these questions, but Jesus knew that they would lift the sheep out of the hole. "A man is worth more than a sheep," Jesus said, "so it is right to do good on the Sabbath."

Then Jesus turned to the man with the crippled hand and said, "Stretch out your hand."

When he stretched out his hand, something wonderful happened! He was healed! He could use his hand again!

The Pharisees angrily left the synagogue. They wanted to stop Jesus from teaching. But God wanted Jesus to keep teaching the people how to obey God.

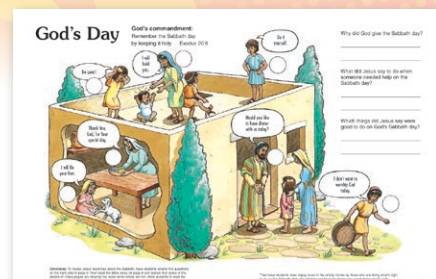
BIBLE REVIEW

Use pages 8 and 9 in *My Bible Book* for an active review. Designate one side of the room as "keeping God's day holy." The other side should be "not keeping God's day holy." Read each speech balloon aloud. Pause after each reading for children to move to the side of the room they think fits what a person is saying.

Gather the children back together and have them turn to pages 8 and 9 in their own books. Point out that the speech balloons are what you just read. Discuss the pages by using questions like the following:

■ **One way to keep the Sabbath Day holy is to worship God. Who is worshipping God in this picture, and who is not?**

(One lady is worshipping God by saying a thank-You prayer. The boy at the right is saying he doesn't want to worship God.)



My Bible Book, page 8-9

■ **Another way to keep the Sabbath holy is to help others and share with them. Who is being kind and helpful in this picture, and who isn't?**

(Right actions: the girl caring for her lamb, the girl picking up the crying baby, and the man inviting the poor people to dinner. Wrong actions: the boy refusing to help the little girl with her sandal, the girl yelling at the crying baby, and the boy who doesn't want to worship God.)

Point out the questions on the right side of page 9. Students should answer the questions by writing their answer on the lines. They may also want to decide if the person is obeying the commandment or not, then draw a happy or sad face in the circle by that person.

MEMORY WORK

Invite the children to read today's memory verse, Exodus 20:8, from their Bibles a couple of times. Then move into an active practice.

Have the children stand in a circle with one child in the center. The center child says the reference and tosses the ball to someone else, who ways the verse. Repeat until all of the students have had a chance to say the verse. Let the children take turns being the center child.

3

Bible Application 5-10 minutes

Objective: That your students will understand how present-day children can keep God's day special.

Gather near the "God's Ten Commandments" Teaching Aid and review the first three commandments from last week. If time allows, read the poems again. Then read the fourth commandment and poem, and discuss the picture of the church building. **In our Bible story Jesus worshiped God at the synagogue.**



"God's Ten Commandments" Teaching Aid

Today, we worship God at our church.

As students turn to page 10 in *My Bible Book*, explain that present-day people can keep God's day holy, too. Have students look at the directions at the top of the page. Let a volunteer read the first direction and allow time for students to mark their answers.

Then read and follow the second direction at the top of the page. (Answers: children paying attention to the teacher, girl offering to help, boy offering to share, and children singing together.)

Then volunteers can give the reasons for their choices. (The children paying attention are learning about Jesus, the children offering to help and share are being kind, the children singing are worshipping God.)

Now let's look at the prayer on the bottom of the page. It reminds us to keep God's day holy just as Jesus did.

■ **How did Jesus keep God's day holy?** (*He went to God's house, helped the man with the crippled hand.*)

Have the class read the prayer aloud in unison.



My Bible Book, page 10

(Answers: a boy is playing instead of paying attention, a girl is refusing to help, a boy won't share, and a girl isn't singing.) Allow students to suggest ways these children could keep God's special day holy.



4

Life Response 5-10 minutes

Objective: That your students will make a personal effort to keep God's day special.

We've been talking about ways people today can keep God's day holy. Now let's do something that will help us remember our memory verse and help us practice it.

Turn in your Bibles to Exodus 20:8 and let's read it together. That's the memory verse we learned earlier today. One way we can keep the Sabbath day is to make a special day to honor God. Let's work together to create a puzzle to help us remember to make Sunday a special day to honor God.



Elementary Kid Crafts,
Lesson 2

Before class, create a sample of the "Lord's Day Puzzle" from the *Elementary Kid Crafts*, Lesson 2 project. Have the children follow the directions to make their puzzle. If time is running short, make the puzzles together as a class using the premade sample as a visual help. Otherwise students can figure out how to fold the puzzle picture and then race against each other to go through the days of the week. The winner reads aloud the poem for Sunday.

CLOSING ACTIVITY

To close class, let students sing or listen to a song from the DisKit CD. When they are finished, have the students fold their puzzles one more time to get to the Sunday poem. Pray the poem aloud together, then pray a thank-You prayer to God for giving us a special day to honor Him.

Before leaving, check to be sure students have their copies of pages 7-10 from *My Bible Book* and their "Lord's Day Puzzle" from *Elementary Kid Crafts*.



2

