

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further ***International Bible Lessons***

Matthew 12:1-14
Sunday, June 3, 2018
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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. Why did the Pharisees accuse Jesus’ disciples of doing something unlawful on the Sabbath?

According to the traditions and rules the Pharisees and others had added to God’s laws regarding the Sabbath in the Old Testament, Jesus’ disciples were harvesting and threshing grain on the Sabbath; thus, they were working on the Sabbath. They were also looking for some reasons to accuse Jesus of breaking or allowing His disciples to break God’s laws. [But their interpretation was not according to God’s laws in the Bible.]

2. In His response to them, what did Jesus say David had done (and he was not condemned for having done what he did)?

He and his companions ate some loaves of holy bread that according to the ceremonial laws in the Old Testament only the priests could eat legally.

3. Why were the priests allowed to desecrate the Sabbath and were considered innocent?

They were performing their ceremonial Sabbath duties according to other ceremonial laws of God in the Old Testament; thus, they were considered innocent (they were doing the will of God).

4. What words from the prophets did Jesus say these Pharisees did not know?

“I desire mercy, not sacrifice.”

5. After Jesus healed the man with the shriveled hand, what did the Pharisees decide to do?

“The Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.”