

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

Exodus 20:8-11; 31:12-16

Sunday December 6, 2015

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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. How might your church be different if everyone obeyed the commandment: “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy”?

Since every member would be attending, and since they all would be committed to keeping the Sabbath holy, there should be greater unity among everyone committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. Everyone would be studying the same Bible passages in worship, and everyone would be growing together in their knowledge of the Lord and the Bible. There would be a deeper and greater love for everyone, and increasing joy as people fellowship and learn more about one another. Different groups and families in the church would want to spend more time together in addition to the Sabbath day. Intercessory prayer would be more effective as everyone united in prayer with common concerns. Giving to missions and outreach to help others would increase. The church would grow as members reached out to others in the community and as people heard about this wonderful church and came to see what the Lord was doing in their midst.

2. How might your town be different if everyone obeyed the commandment: “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy”?

Essential services would be available, and everyone would have an opportunity to attend the churches of their choice. The money that would be spent in seven days would be spent in six; there should not be any economic hardship. Townspeople would only shop on the six days and not shop in nearby communities on the Sabbath. Manufacturing might need to be done in shifts by more workers, giving more workers jobs, but all could rest and relax and worship together and as families on the Sabbath. There would be very little, if any, crime, because people would learn how to love and care for one another as they attended church services on the Sabbath. Everyone would learn all of the Ten Commandments, and they would pray and obey the Lord with the Holy Spirit being their helper. Sinners would be saved and transformed by their faith in Jesus Christ. The town would be a place of joy and peace, where many would want to live and work.

3. How might your nation be different if everyone obeyed the commandment: “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy”?

From churches, to towns, to cities, to nations, a nation would be transformed. There would be little crime and little need for many social services because there would be less crime and people would be making better choices. With fewer problems, people could be more creative, inventive, and productive. People would love and care for one another, and neighbor would help neighbor.

What we have described in answer to the three questions above reveal in some small way how important Sabbath-keeping is and what God intended for the Israelites when He included this command among the Ten Commandments. To destroy what God intended is indeed a crime. In some small sense, the answers reveal what heaven is like and what the Kingdom of God will be like on earth someday. Unfortunately, too many people do not want that kind of heaven or Kingdom of God.

4. Today, do you think churches should teach people the commandment: “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy”? Give a reason for your answer.

Yes. Jesus and His disciples and the Apostles and those they led to faith in Jesus Christ honored the Sabbath and kept it holy. Churches also need to be careful they do not add laws and traditions that the Bible and Jesus never intended. Jesus faced this problem when He healed on the Sabbath. People in church need to discuss what it means to keep the Sabbath holy, and how God intends more from that command than just regular church attendance. People need to be taught that God in Christ will forgive those who repent for having abused God’s gift of the Sabbath, and Jesus will show them what to do and not do on the Sabbath when He becomes their Lord and Savior.

5. Today, what kind of person obeys the commandment: “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy”? Give a reason for your answer.

The person who loves God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit will obey this commandment. They will love other Christians and want to spend time with them in worship, Bible study, and fellowship. They will come together and seek out ways to serve God together as they meet on the Sabbath.

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