

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

**Leviticus 25:1-12**  
**Sunday, May 20, 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 do you think God established days and years of rest for people, animals, plants, and the land?**

God told Moses that all His laws were given for our good and benefit. Speaking of God’s laws, Jesus said that the Sabbath was made for us (because we have a need for the Sabbath) and not us for the Sabbath (a day of rest and worship). God, who made us and all creation, knows our needs and the needs of all creation. He

made us to need a Sabbath (a day of rest) to refresh ourselves mentally, physically, and spiritually. Our domestic animals need rest from work to restore their energy for future work, and so do we. We know that crops and land benefit when crops are rotated or land is allowed to lie fallow (not cultivated) periodically.

## **2. What are some of the possible consequences when people do not know about or disregard days of rest for themselves and/or others?**

There are negative consequences from not resting. Sometimes doctors or therapists need to tell someone they need rest because they did not know about or disregarded God's laws that teach we need regular times of rest. From lack of proper rest, mental and physical breakdowns can occur that require expensive treatment, if indeed a person can recover from the breakdown. We can harm others if we do not recognize that we need to give them rest from work or allow them rest from work.

## **3. Why do you think the Year of Jubilee was to begin after the Day of Atonement?**

God wanted people to have a fresh beginning and a new life with their land being returned to them and/or with their being freed from voluntary slavery because of financial need and/or with them being able to take a year off from work to improve their total wellbeing and their relationships with God and others. To achieve these goals, God wanted people to also have a new beginning morally and spiritually by beginning the Year of Jubilee with the focus on God, with the worship of God, with sacrifices that

granted them assurance of forgiveness and cleansing from sin which the Day of Atonement provided prior to the atoning death of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

#### **4. Why do you think God gave laws for the caring of needy relatives?**

God knows how prone people are to selfishness and to not caring for anyone but themselves. His specific laws help prevent people's selfishness from leading them to totally disregarding the needs of others. The next of kin should know the needs of their next of kin (their relatives the closest to them physically or by heredity), and how best to care for these needs. They would know if the needs of their next of kin were real or if the person was just lazy and did not want to work. When relatives take care of each other, undue pressure is not placed on society as a whole. The laws of God make it less easy for some people to take unjust advantage of others or society.

#### **5. In what ways can we make our days of rest more holy to us? What are some benefits of taking extra time and making our rest time more holy to us?**

We can set aside more time in a day of rest for Bible reading and prayer, for reading books or other materials that will teach us more about God and the Bible and how to serve God and others better when we work. We can use our regular day of rest to worship God and to study the Bible with other believers or to teach others the Bible (we often learn more as a teacher than as a student). We can use our rest time to learn more about how God

has expressed His love for us in the Bible and in the life and work of Jesus Christ. We can use our rest time to consciously draw closer to God, seeking to be in His presence to spend time with God. We can use our rest time as an opportunity to obey God better and to learn how to obey Him better during our time of work with the strength and wisdom God gives (often acquired during our time of rest).

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