

Study Guide on Matthew 12:1-14

New International Version

Assign each person in the class one or more verses to study.
Each person should answer these two questions on their assigned verse.

1. What does this verse say?
2. What does this verse mean to me?
3. Discuss your answers with the class.

(Matthew 12:1) At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them.

(Matthew 12:2) When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, “Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath.”

(Matthew 12:3) He answered, “Haven’t you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry?”

(Matthew 12:4) He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread—which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests.

(Matthew 12:5) Or haven’t you read in the Law that the priests on Sabbath duty in the temple desecrate the Sabbath and yet are innocent?

(Matthew 12:6) I tell you that something greater than the temple is here.

(Matthew 12:7) If you had known what these words mean, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the innocent.

(Matthew 12:8) For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

(Matthew 12:9) Going on from that place, he went into their synagogue,

(Matthew 12:10) and a man with a shriveled hand was there. Looking for a reason to bring charges against Jesus, they asked him, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”

(Matthew 12:11) He said to them, “If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out?”

(Matthew 12:12) How much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.”

(Matthew 12:13) Then he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other.

(Matthew 12:14) But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.

Write the verse or verses you have been assigned in the space below:

Answer These Questions for Class Discussion or Study

1. What does the verse say?
2. What does the verse mean to me?