



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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Genesis 2:15; Exodus 20:9; John 5:17; 9:4;

Read and Listen to “[*The Day the Gate Stayed Closed*](#)”

[*Cowboy Tales From Roaring Rapids Ranch*](#)

Class Starter or Closer Discussion Questions

1. God commands both labor and rest for our good, establishing a rhythm of work and Sabbath (Exodus 20:8–10).

How does the tension Jake feels between unfinished work and the call to rest reflect struggles people face today? What does his decision to go to church anyway teach about trusting God’s design for balance?

2. The Sabbath was made for our benefit, to provide renewal and remind us of our dependence on God.

How does Mary’s insistence on pausing the work and going to church help the others experience the purpose of rest? Why do you think rest can feel uncomfortable or undeserved, as it does for Eli?

3. God’s commands are not burdens but expressions of His love and wisdom for our lives.

How does the peaceful outcome of the day—nothing falling apart despite the work being left undone—illustrate the truth behind God’s command to rest? What does Jake begin to understand by the end of the day?

4. Scripture teaches that both work and rest have their proper place in a faithful life.

How do Mary’s examples from the land and animals help explain why people also need rest? What might happen in a person’s life if they continually ignore God’s command to rest?

5. Worship and rest help us refocus on God and understand the purpose behind our labor.

How does the day of rest change the way Jake, Mary, and Eli see their work and their lives? What does this teach about how setting aside time for God can bring clarity, gratitude, and peace into our daily routines?