

# STOWMARKET BAPTIST CHURCH

# SUNDAY BIBLE CLUB

14 JUNE 2020

Hello

It is James here writing this week's story. I hope that you well?

What is your favourite sport that you like playing?  
Is it any of these?



I like cycling and have been going for a lot of bike rides over the last few weeks. But I can only cycle so far before I get tired and need to have a rest. Do you find the same thing when you are playing sport?



Today we are going to learn about a God's Commandment about the day that he has given us to rest.

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Long before Jesus came into the world, God had given his people the 10 Commandments. They show us how important and special God is.

So far, we have looked at the first 3. Can you remember what they are?

1. Love God more than anything else you love.
2. Do not make anything in your life more important than God.
3. Always treat Gods name with respect.

This week we are going to learn about the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment:

<sup>8</sup> "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labour and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Exodus chapter 20 verses 8-11

What does this mean? Why is it a good idea?

**This Commandment tells us to keep a day special for God; a day to rest from our normal work and to learn more about God.**

**Today's story can be found in the Bible in Matthew 12 verses 1 - 14, which says:**

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, "Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath."

<sup>3</sup> He answered, "Haven't you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> Or haven't you read in the Law that the priests on Sabbath duty in the temple desecrate the Sabbath and yet are innocent? <sup>6</sup> I tell you that something greater than the temple is here. <sup>7</sup> If you had known what these words mean, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the

innocent. <sup>8</sup> For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

<sup>9</sup> Going on from that place, he went into their synagogue, <sup>10</sup> 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?"

<sup>11</sup> 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? <sup>12</sup> How much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."

<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.

**One day Jesus and his friends were walking through a cornfield on the Sabbath, which is like our Sunday. His disciples were hungry, so they picked some ears of the corn to eat.**



**The Pharisees, who were religious leaders, were jealous of Jesus and when they saw them do this, they thought that it was wrong. They accused the disciples of breaking the law. But how?**

**The Pharisees thought that they knew more than God than anyone else. They had added more laws to the 10 Commandments of their own - in fact they added around 39 in total! One of these laws included that you could not pick corn on the Sabbath.**

**At first the Pharisees were angry, but then they became furious.**

**Jesus reminded them what God says - that the Sabbath is God's special day. God wants people were kind to each other and worship him.**

**But the still Pharisees disagreed with Jesus. Later in the synagogue, where they worshipped God, they found another opportunity to try and trick Jesus.**

**They asked Jesus a question... "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"**

**They did this by bringing to Jesus a man who had a withered (poorly) hand and asked it was OK to heal him on the Sabbath?**



They Pharisees regarded healing as working. How was Jesus going to answer?

Jesus told them that if one of their sheep fell into a hole on the Sabbath, they would rescue it. So, why not heal this man's hand - a man is more valuable than a sheep!

What did Jesus say that is was right to do?

Why?

What was Jesus trying to teach them?

Pleasing God and helping others are more important than just keeping rules.

So, Jesus healed the man.

The Pharisees only seemed to care about themselves, but Jesus cared about others. They felt threatened by Jesus and embarrassed that he had shown up their bad attitudes.

The Pharisees were not concerned about the disciples being hungry or that the man needed help. They just wanted to find fault with Jesus. What they did showed their pride and unkindness.

The Sabbath day was made by God for man. He gave it to us for our benefit because he cares about us.

He wants us to keep the Sabbath special and take time out from our busy lives - but that does not mean being lazy!

It means that we need to worship God, learning his word to make us strong.

*Dear Lord*

*Thank you for making one day in the week, that we can stop, and come and worship you. Help us to remember everything that you have provided for us and done for us and help us to remember to say, "thank you". Amen*

