

Sept 17, 2017



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

Lesson Leaders:

James Haymon
Jose Cisneros

Class Leaders:

Inreach: Pat Hester
Secretary: Mary Clark
Deacon: C M Hester

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

In our faith and service, rest is as important as work

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Lord God, in You we find our rest. Thank You that You've created us both to work and to rest. Please help us to find the right rhythm for our lives

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

Six days you shall do your work, and on the seventh day you shall rest, that your ox and your donkey may rest, and the son of your female servant and the stranger may be refreshed.

(Exod 23:12 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", July 8, 2017)

Series: Covenants with God

UNIT: Signs of God's Covenant

NEXT WEEK

Spirit Filled Heart

(Ezekiel 36:22-32)

Sabbath Observance Exodus 31:12-18

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson teaches us how to understand the regulations of the Sabbath commandment related to the **Sabbath Observance**. The study's aim is to recognize the meaning and purpose behind the Sabbath commandment. The study's application is to strengthen our commitment to Sunday as a day to worship God and honor Him in special ways.
(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

Who is in charge of the world? Governments like to think that they are. But we all know how many people circumvent the governments of the world. Mobs that take to the streets, terrorists, and anarchists also like to think they are taking over. But they usually come to ruin. Pop icons and those with a great following believe they are the driving force of countries and cultures. But they quickly come and go. The Christian believer knows that only God has the right to exalt Himself as the Ruler of the world and as the Sovereign over all men. This is what we learn from God's Sabbaths, given to His Old Testament people, Israel, in the Law of Moses, as an abiding ordinance for their lives. They were to do their work in six days and then give God the seventh day. There were also other holy days of rest and worship. The Sabbath Day is called a sign (Exod. 31:13; cf. vs. 17) between God and His people that they were in covenant together. Going back to God's work of Creation, the Sabbath observances of Israel reflected God's rest and satisfaction with all that He had made (Gen. 2:1-3). The point is that those in a covenant with God are to recognize His authority and leadership. He has a right to issue His commands, and the people have a duty to obey them. The sign of God's Sabbath has a connection to sanctification. In this it is somewhat like the sign of circumcision. Notice the purpose statement in God's command to His people to follow the Sabbath: "that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you." The word "sanctify" is the common term for making something holy, separating it for God's use. The point of God's covenantal dealings is to create a people for Himself who learn and display His holy ways. They belong to Him and are to be devoted to His purposes. This is one vital reason why entering into a relationship with God is so consequential. By doing so, we acknowledge God as the center of authority for our lives. We commit ourselves to obeying Him. We recognize His prerogative to issue commands and prohibitions that apply to our lives. We are acknowledging that we live to obey Him. We seek to give glory to His power and sovereign authority. This certainly goes far beyond any simple religious ritual. It impacts how we live every day. God's covenant with us calls us to daily service and obedience, a daily awareness of Him. The signs of the covenant are reminders of God's leadership in our lives. How passionate are we about obeying God and about learning His will and seeking to put it into practice? Are we gladly studying His Word and applying it to our lives? Are we really His covenant people? It is tempting to try to use God like our own personal heavenly caretaker. We call on Him when we want something. But the sign of the Sabbath shows us that God has covenanted with us for higher purposes; we are to be His holy people in the world.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Sabbath Commanded (Exodus 31:12-13)

Commanded by God (12)

Commanded to become the duty of man (Eccl 12:13)

Commanded to not add or subtract from it (Deut 4:2)

Commanded as the way to life (Prov 6:23)

Commanded to be guarded so that we will live (Prov 7:2)

Commanded to be obeyed through love (John 14:21)

Commanded to be doers of it not just hearers (James 1:22)

Commanded to show God is our Lord (13)

Lord through being set apart as Lord (1 Peter 3:14-15)

Lord through being revealed by God (Matt 16:15-17)

Lord through the truth from the Holy Spirit (John 15:26)

Lord through acknowledging Jesus is God (1 John 4:2)

Lord through the glory of God (Phil 2:10-11)

Commanded to sanctify us (13)

Sanctification through God's truth (John 17:17)

Sanctification through Jesus (John 17:19)

Sanctification by the God of peace (1 Thess 5:23)

Sanctification by God who is Lord (Lev 20:8)

Sabbath Regulations (Exodus 31:14-16)

It is to be holy (14)

Holy because Christians are called to be holy (1 Cor 1:2)

Holy because God chose Christians to be holy and blameless (Eph 1:4)

Holy because of God's mercy (1 Peter 2:9-10)

Holy out of reverence for God (2 Cor 7:1)

Holy through living a holy life (1 Thess 4:7)

Holy through God's grace (Titus 2:11-12)

It is for rest (15)

A rest that is an inheritance of which God will never forsake (Ps 94:13-14)

A rest that is peaceful and secure (Isa 32:18)

A rest that provides relief from troubles (2 Thess 1:7)

A rest that is a blessing for those who are dead and who die in the Lord (Rev 14:13)

A rest that comes through faith (Heb 4:2-3)

It is to be perpetual (16)

Perpetual because God does not violate His covenants (Ps 89:33-36)

Perpetual because God out of His great love blesses (Ps 106:43-45)

Perpetual because God continues to redeem His people of the covenant (Ps 111:9)

Perpetual because God upholds His people (Isa 42:6)

Perpetual through Jesus' blood covenant (Matt 26:28)

Sabbath Significance (Exodus 31:17-18)

It is a sign (17)

Sign of God's compassion by renewing them every day (Lam 3:22-23)

Sign of God's refreshing through the sign of the rainbow (Gen 9:13)

Sign of God's promise through His sign of stopping the sun for a day (Isa 38:7-8)

Sign of God's deliverance of the Jews by worshiping on His mountain (Ex 3:12)

It is to refresh (17)

Refreshment and rest is the reason for the Sabbath (Heb 4:9-10)

God refreshes the faint (Jer 31:25)

Refreshment awaits all Christians in heaven (Rev 14:13)

God is the ultimate refresher (Ps 103:5)

God refreshes like a well-watered spring (Isa 58:11)

It is part of God's Commandments (18)

God's commandments were spoken by God and carried along by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21)

God's commandments are true and are the actual words of God (1 Thess 2:13)

God's commandments should be obeyed (John 14:15)

God's commandments shows Himself to us (John 14:21)

Obedience to God's commandments keeps us in God's love (John 15:10)