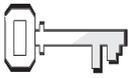


A Day of Celebration



References

Genesis 2:1–3;
*Patriarchs and
Prophets*, pp. 47, 48



Memory Verse

“And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy” (Genesis 2:3, NIV).



Objectives

The children will:

- Know** that God created the Sabbath for fellowship with Him.
- Feel** happy that they can spend time with God on Sabbath.
- Respond** by praising God on His special day.



The Message

We worship God when we enjoy His Sabbath.

Monthly Theme

We thank God for His presence with us.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

For six days God has created wonderful things to make a beautiful world and creatures to inhabit it. On the seventh day He sets aside a day to rest, to celebrate, and to enjoy what has been made. He blesses the Sabbath and makes it holy. It is His gift to those He has created and is to be a memorial of His creative power for all time.

This is a lesson about worship.

God did not need to rest. He made the Sabbath as a memorial to what He had done to make this world a beautiful place for all. He who sees the end from the beginning knows that people need a time to come apart, to rest, to worship Him. Thus the Sabbath became the first and a lasting memorial to God’s wonderful works for His children.

Teacher Enrichment

“After resting upon the seventh day, God sanctified it, or set it apart, as a day of rest for man. Following the example of the Creator, man was to rest upon this sacred day, that as he should look upon the heavens and the earth, he might reflect upon God’s great work of creation; and that as he should behold the evidences of God’s wisdom and goodness, his heart might be filled with love and reverence for his Maker” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 47).

“God saw that a Sabbath was essential for man, even in Paradise. He needed to lay aside his own interests and pursuits for one day of the seven, that he might more fully contemplate the works of God and meditate upon His power and goodness. He needed a Sabbath to remind him more vividly of God and to awaken gratitude because all that he enjoyed and possessed came from the beneficent hand of the Creator” (*ibid.*, p. 48).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 5.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Sleeping Lions</i> B. <i>God's Present</i> C. <i>Sabbath Preparation</i>	recorded or piano music small gift for each child none
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> container from Lesson 5 paper circles (see p. 143), markers
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	happy faces from Prayer activity 11 pictures of things God made (see p. 144) Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Memorial Stones</i>	large flat stones—one per child, bright-colored markers
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Sabbath Celebration</i>	cardstock, markers/crayons, large sheet of paper

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share an experience from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- recorded or piano music

A. Sleeping Lions

Say: **We are going to pretend that you are all lions. While the music plays you can stalk around looking for prey. As soon as it stops you need to lie down like a sleeping lion. You need to “sleep” with your eyes closed until the music starts again. No matter what happens, you must not move.** When the children are “sleeping,” try to wake them up by making noises, walking close to them, etc. If they move, they are to try to “wake up” the lions next time.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How hard was it to sleep with all the noise and distractions? Why is it important to sleep and rest? God has given us a special day of rest. In our lesson today we will discover what God's idea was when He gave us His day of rest. Our message for today says:**



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE ENJOY HIS SABBATH.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- small gift for each child (pencil, eraser, stickers, etc.)

B. God's Present

Give each child a small gift. Say: **I've brought something small for each of you.**

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Who likes to get presents? When do we usually get presents? Did you know that God has given us a special present every week? It is called Sabbath. How is Sabbath different from every other day? Why did God make Sabbath a special day? What do you like most about it? Today we will learn more about that special day and how to enjoy it.**

Today's message is:



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE ENJOY HIS SABBATH.

Say that with me.

C. Sabbath Preparation

Have no chairs or songbooks in place when the children come into the room. Ask the children to help you get the room ready.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How did you feel when you came into the room and nothing was ready? What did you think had happened? Why is it important to be ready? On Sabbath we have an opportunity to spend a whole day with God. It is important to be ready to meet with Him. What do we need to do to be ready for His special day? What do you do at your house to get ready for Sabbath?** (We get ready so we can enjoy Sabbath more.) **Today's message is:**



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE ENJOY HIS SABBATH.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise

**Any
Time**



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review last week's memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

- "We Grow in Many Different Ways" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 58)
- "Alleluia" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 16)
- "Clap Your Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 4)
- "Praise Him, Praise Him" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 12)
- "He's Able" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 40)



Mission

Share a story from *Children's Mission*. Emphasize the theme of worship in the mission story.



Offering

Say: **Giving our offerings is one way we worship God. We can also worship Him by spending time with our Bibles every day.**

You Need:

- offering container from Lesson 5



Prayer

Give each child a circle of paper and ask the children to draw a happy face on one side and on the other something they like about Sabbath. Have each child hold up their happy face and tell why they like Sabbath. Gather in a circle and thank Jesus for the blessings of Sabbath. Save the happy faces for Experiencing the Story.

You Need:

- circle of paper for each child (see p. 143)
- markers

2

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- circles of paper with happy faces from Prayer activity

Experiencing the Story

As you read or tell the story, the children should wave their happy faces when you say **God**. When you say **Adam**, the boys should stand up. When you say **Eve**, the girls should stand up.

Practice these cues before sharing the story.

Read or tell the story.

For six days **God** [Wave happy faces.] had been busy creating the world and everything in it. Everything from the sun and moon down to the tiny ants and smallest creatures in the sea was just as He had planned it. **God** [Wave happy faces.] looked at it all and saw that it was good.

God [Wave happy faces.] saved the best till last! He created **Adam** [Boys stand up.] and **Eve** [Girls stand up.] on Friday. Now there was only one thing left to create—a special event that would help this new world to remember Him as its Creator. An event that would give **Adam** [Boys stand up.] and **Eve** [Girls stand up.] time to get to know Him. **God** [Wave happy faces.] smiled with pleasure.

On the seventh day **God** [Wave happy faces.] rested and spent time with **Adam** [Boys stand up.] and **Eve**. [Girls stand up.] He called the seventh day the Sabbath and blessed it.

The first Sabbath **Adam** [Boys stand up.] and **Eve** [Girls stand up.] spent with **God** [Wave happy faces.] was a joyful time. They talked about the wonderful things that **God** [Wave happy faces.] had made. They walked in the Garden admiring the beauty of the plants and animals. It was a day they did not want to end. It was so wonderful to spend time with **God**. [Wave happy faces.]

God [Wave happy faces.] explained that every week they could enjoy this special time with Him. Of course, they would enjoy time with **God** [Wave happy faces.] every day. During the week, caring for this new world would keep them busy. But on Sabbath **Adam** [Boys stand up.] and **Eve** [Girls stand up.] could rest from that work and enjoy a special time with **God**. [Wave happy faces.]

Adam [Boys stand up.] and **Eve** [Girls stand up.] were thrilled at the thought of a day when they could explore wonderful things with their Creator. They had so many questions they wanted to ask.

Later, when **Adam** [Boys stand up.] and **Eve** [Girls stand up.] disobeyed **God**, [Wave happy faces.] they were shut out from their garden home. They began to understand what an awful thing they had done. **Adam** [Boys stand up.] had to work harder to care for the plants and animals. Things began to die.

God [Wave happy faces.] took time to explain to **Adam** [Boys stand up.] and **Eve** [Girls stand up.] His plan to rescue the world from sin. He explained that Sabbath was an important part of that plan. After they sinned, a huge gap seemed to separate man from **God**. [Wave happy faces.] Sabbath is like a bridge bringing man and **God** [Wave happy faces.] together again.

God [Wave happy faces.] told **Adam** [Boys stand up.] and **Eve** [Girls stand up.] that Satan would try to make people believe that he was in charge of the world. Satan would try to persuade people that **God** [Wave happy faces.] was not the Creator. He would try to persuade them not to meet with **God** [Wave happy faces.] on the Sabbath.

Adam [Boys stand up.] and **Eve** [Girls stand up.] could not understand why anyone would not want to spend time with

God. *[Wave happy faces.]* **God** *[Wave happy faces.]* told them that there would always be a small faithful group who would remember to keep Sabbath as a special day.

Best of all, when the earth is made new, everyone will worship together on the Sabbath day. And we will walk and talk with **God** *[Wave happy faces.]* face to face again.

Debriefing

Ask: **What did God do that was different on the seventh day of Creation week? What was so special about this day?** (God rested, He blessed it, and He promised that it would be a special time to meet with His people.)

Why do you think Adam and Eve enjoyed Sabbath so much?

What do you like most about Sabbath? What does your family do to make Sabbath a special day?

Remember:



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE ENJOY HIS SABBATH.

Say that with me.

Memory Verse

Write one word of the memory verse on the back of each picture. Put the text on one. **“And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy” (Genesis 2:3, NIV).** Hide the pictures around the room before Sabbath School starts. Say: **There are 11 pictures hidden around the room. They all show something that God has made for us to enjoy on Sabbath.**

When the children have found the

You Need:

- 11 pictures of things God has made or things to do on Sabbath (see p. 144)

pictures, have them turn the pictures over and put the memory verse words in the right order. Say the memory verse together. Look at each of the pictures in turn. When you have looked at each and discussed the activity, remove the picture and repeat the memory verse again. By the time you have looked at all of the pictures, the children should know the verse.

Bible Study

Say: **The Sabbath is God’s special gift to us. Let’s discover what the Bible says about it.** Have the children find and read the following texts. Discuss each text with the class. Adults assist as needed.

Exodus 20:8–11

Isaiah 58:13, 14

Mark 2:27

Mark 3:1–5

Matthew 13:54

You Need:

- Bibles

Debriefing

Ask: **What makes Sabbath different from other days?**

What did we learn about how we should prepare for Sabbath? About what we should do on the Sabbath? How does this fit in with God telling Adam and Eve that Sabbath would be a day of rest?

What should we be willing to do on Sabbath? (Help others.) **What did Jesus do on Sabbath? Today we are following His example. Let’s remember our message:**



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE ENJOY HIS SABBATH.

Say that with me.

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- large flat stones—one for each child
- bright-colored markers

Memorial Stones

Say: **After wars or significant historical events people often build memorials. What is the Sabbath a memorial to? (God's Creation) When the children of Israel wanted to set up a memorial to a special event, they often used stones. Let's write on our stones "The Sabbath is a memorial to God's Creation."**

On Sabbath we have an opportunity to spend a whole day with God. It is important to be ready to meet with Him. What do we need to do to be ready for His special day?

What do you do at your house to

get ready for Sabbath?

Encourage the children to share what they do to help get ready for Sabbath.

Debriefing

Ask: **Why is it important to remember God's special day?**

What can we do on the Sabbath to get to know God better?

Put your stone in your room at home and look at it during the week to remind you to get ready to spend time with God and enjoy next Sabbath. Let's say today's message together:



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE ENJOY HIS SABBATH.

Sharing the Lesson

Sabbath Celebration

Say: **God wants us to enjoy Sabbath. It should be the best day of the week. What are some of the things that you like to do on Sabbath?** Discuss these with the children.

Let's plan a special Sabbath celebration to praise God for the Sabbath and to enjoy being together. Choose an appropriate activity, such as a Sabbath School picnic or potluck followed by a nature/a-b-c walk. (Look for something that begins with each letter of the alphabet.) Use a large sheet of paper to plan your class activity.

Help the children make invitations.

Debriefing

Ask: **Who will you invite to our Sabbath celebration?**

What do you think it will be like when we get to heaven and we celebrate Sabbath with Jesus and all the angels? What will you enjoy most?

Let's say our message together:



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE ENJOY HIS SABBATH.

Closing

Sing a song about Sabbath such as "Psalm 118:24" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 94), then thank God for creating a special day for us to be with Him and to worship Him.

Remind the children to use their Bible Study Guide every day and to do the daily activities.

You Need:

- cardstock
- markers/ crayons
- large sheet of paper

A Day of Celebration

References

Genesis 2:1–3;
Patriarchs and
Prophets,
pp. 47, 48

Memory Verse

“And God blessed
the seventh day
and made it holy”
(Genesis 2:3, NIV).

The Message

We worship God
when we enjoy His
Sabbath.

Birthday celebrations are fun. Did you ever wish that you could have more than one birthday a year?

When God created the world, He created a birthday to be celebrated once a week. He called the day “Sabbath.” And He wants us to share in His Sabbath celebration every week.

For six days God had been very busy creating the world and everything in it. Everything from the sun, moon, and stars, down to the tiny ants and the smallest creatures in the sea was just as He had planned it. He looked at it all and saw that it was good.

God had saved the best till last. He created Adam and Eve on Friday. Now there was only one thing left to create—a special time that would help this new world to remember Him as its Creator. A day that would give Adam and Eve time to get to know Him. God smiled with pleasure.

On the seventh day God rested and spent time with Adam and Eve. He called the seventh day the Sabbath and blessed it.

The first Sabbath Adam and Eve

spent with God was a joyful time. They talked about the wonderful things that God had made. They walked in the Garden admiring the beauty of the plants and enjoyed the animals. It was a day they did not want to end. It was so wonderful to spend time with God.

God explained that every week they could enjoy this special time with Him. Yes, they would spend time with God every day. But during the week there were many things that would keep them busy. On Sabbath Adam and Eve could rest from that work and enjoy a special time with God.

Adam and Eve were thrilled at the thought of a day to explore wonderful things with their Creator. They had so many questions they wanted to ask.

Later, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they were shut out from their beautiful garden home. They soon began to understand what an awful thing they had done. Adam had to work harder to care for the plants and animals. Things began to die. Sabbaths became a time to spend with God without doing work.

God took time to explain to Adam and Eve His plan to rescue the world from sin. He explained that Sabbath was an

important part of that plan. After they sinned a huge gap seemed to separate them from God.

Sabbath is like a bridge bringing people and God together again.

God told Adam and Eve that Satan would try to make people believe that he was in charge of the world. Satan would try to persuade people that God was not the Creator. He would try to persuade them not to meet with God on the Sabbath.

Adam and Eve could not understand that. Why wouldn't people want to spend time with their Friend? But God also told



them good news: A small faithful group would always keep Sabbath as a special day to be with God.

Best of all, when the earth is made new, everyone will worship together on the Sabbath day. And people will walk and talk with God face to face again.

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- If possible, go for a walk with your family.
- Find a quiet place and read your lesson. Talk about God's walk with Adam and Eve on the first Sabbath. If you could go for a walk with God, what would you ask Him about? Thank God for giving us a special time with Him every week.
- Teach your memory verse to your family.

Sunday

- Read and discuss Genesis 2:2, 3 for family worship.
- Use the letters of the word SABBATH to see how many words you can list that describe Sabbath. For example: S is for special and sacred. A is for awesome, etc.
- Make a countdown calendar so you can check off the days until Sabbath.
- Pray for those who cannot celebrate Sabbath openly.

Monday

- With your family, read Exodus 20:8–11. Ask your parents to tell you of special blessings they receive from keeping the Sabbath holy.
- Sabbath is a memorial to Creation. Draw a flower with a center and 10 petals. Cut out the petals. Write the reference to your memory verse in the flower center and one word on each petal. Mix up the petals and try to put the words back in order.
- Thank God for creating beautiful flowers.

Tuesday

- At family worship think of a friend who has never celebrated Sabbath. Plan to invite them to share a Sabbath with your family. Pray for them.
- Read the story about God sending manna to the

children of Israel in Exodus 16:4, 5, 14–30. What does this tell you about keeping the Sabbath?

- Make a list of things you can do during the first six days of the week to be ready for Sabbath.

Wednesday

- With your family, discover when Sabbath begins. Look in Genesis 1 to see how God's time is measured. Ask an adult to show you a sunset calendar.
- Are there any memorials near your home? Find out if there are special holidays to remind people of national events. How do these compare with God's memorial of Creation, the Sabbath?
- Sing "Psalm 118:24" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 94) or another song of praise.
- Thank God for the Sabbath, His memorial of Creation.

Thursday

- Make a sunset calendar and put it up in your room to remind you to be ready for Sabbath.
- During family worship talk about things you like to do on Sabbath. Read Mark 2:27 together. Plan to do something special this week.
- Write a letter to God. (Ask your mom or dad to help you.) Tell Him how you would like to spend Sabbath with Him in heaven.
- Pray for your family's Sabbath plan.

Friday

- Help your family get ready for Sabbath. Tidy your room without being told.
- With your family, read and discuss Genesis 1; 2:1–3. Ask your family: Which day of Creation is your favorite? Why?
- Say your memory verse together; then thank God for a new Sabbath.