

Response Questions:

1. If it was clear to you from this lesson that the Biblical seventh day, Saturday, is the Sabbath of God, put a check in Box #1.
2. If it is your desire to deepen your relationship with God through daily Bible study and prayer and weekly Sabbath keeping, put a check in Box #2.
3. If you feel that you are not quite ready to make a decision to begin keeping God's Sabbath but you would like me to pray that God will help you to be ready to make that decision in the future, put a check in Box # 3.

Lesson 11 is your major presentation of the Sabbath.

In this lesson you will attempt to prove:

- 1) that the seventh day is Saturday,
- 2) that the seventh day is the day commanded by God for worship,
- 3) that the Sabbath has never been changed from Saturday to Sunday, and
- 4) that the Roman Church is the power responsible for the change of the Sabbath from Sabbath to Sunday.

This is a heavy lesson and one that will require much time in preparation and prayer.

Make certain that your presentation is very Christ-centered.

The Sabbath is not a legalistic tool.

The Sabbath is a delight and a joy in Christ.

You will find woven throughout the lesson this theme: God gave His people the Sabbath in order that they might have time to develop a deep relationship with Christ.

Make certain that you bring out this theme again and again as this lesson is presented.

You will find this to be a key to having your students easily accept the Sabbath truth.

You should begin this lesson with a good review.

Items that will need review are:

- 1) the great controversy theme with conflict over worship and obedience,
- 2) the need of a personal relationship with God and the importance of taking time with God to build that relationship,
- 3) the immutability of the law of God, the Ten Commandments.

Reviewing these three points will pull together everything that you have studied in preparation for this lesson. All the foundation that you have

laid in the previous eleven lessons are now summarized as you seek to lead your people into a discussion of the Sabbath truth.

Questions 1 & 2

Questions 1 and 2 are basically reviewing what was previously studied in Lesson 10.

Review clearly the purpose of the Sabbath: God's gift of time to build the relationship with God. You may wish to read several sections of the note under Question 2.

Question 4

Make a point of the fact that God has chosen a special day for God and His people to build this special relationship. God has not invited people to choose the day, but God Himself chose the specific day.

Question 5

While it is obvious to most of us that the seventh day is Saturday, it is not obvious to a lot of the students who will be attending your seminar.

Many of them will question whether there has been a change in the calendar. They will want to know for certain which is the seventh day. Many of them when they see clearly that Saturday is the Biblical seventh day, will quickly agree with you on the Sabbath truth.

That is why it is essential that you clearly present evidence that Saturday is the seventh day. In the next several questions you will deal with all of the major questions people have on which day is the seventh.

Question 6

The point here is that there has been no change in the calendar that has affected the weekly cycle. Remind your students that this is the only

Question 14

This question reiterates the universality of the Sabbath. You can even poke fun a little bit at people who try to make the Sabbath a Jewish institution.

For example, it is just as logical to say that marriage is for the Jews as it is to say that the Sabbath is for the Jews, because both institutions come from the Garden of Eden.

Again emphasize the relationship aspect, that the purpose of the Sabbath is to have a relationship with God.

Question 15

This question verifies the fact that even in the new earth we are still going to need to build a relationship with God.

Therefore it is of utmost necessity that we begin developing this relationship with God now.

Question 16 & 17

Question 16 and 17 work into a very beautiful appeal. Give good emphasis to the fact that the Sabbath is a special sign of a relationship with God, a sign that we know the Lord, a sign that God and His people have entered into this intimate relationship. This will help make your Sabbath presentation Christ-centered.

You want the last words that you leave with your students this night to once again prioritize the purpose of the Sabbath as a relationship with God.

If you will do this clearly, there is no way they can charge you with legalism. Help your students to see clearly the beauty of the Sabbath as a day for building a relationship with God.

Note especially the last part of the note under Point C. If people take time to build a relationship with God through Sabbath keeping, they will have no problem keeping the other ten commandments. Don't hesitate to continually re-emphasize the connection of the Sabbath with the relationship with God.

Question 12

Give a heavy emphasis to this text. It is God who made the decision to rest, bless, and sanctify the seventh day. God did not bless the act of resting, but He blessed the day.

What God has blessed man cannot change. What God has sanctified or set apart, man does not have the authority to change.

Again emphasize the fact that the Sabbath was given at creation, before sin entered the world. It was not given for the purpose of man needing to have rest. Adam and Eve were created on the sixth day of creation week.

The first day that they had on this earth was the Sabbath. Adam and Eve did not need to rest.

The purpose of the Sabbath as it was originally given was for Adam and Eve and God to have time to fellowship together, to get acquainted. Here we see again the beauty of the original purpose of the Sabbath. It was a special time for God and man to get better acquainted with each other.

Question 13

This is probably the key argument for the perpetuity of the Sabbath. If the Sabbath is a creation institution, then it cannot be affected by Calvary. If the Sabbath came in after sin, then Calvary could possibly affect the Sabbath. That is why few Sunday keepers will acknowledge that the Sabbath is a creation institution.

Once that is admitted, there is no choice but to admit that it is a universal ordinance and not something exclusively for the Jews.

For that reason this point needs strong emphasis here.

major change in the calendar since the time of Christ. If we can go back to Christ with the calendar and the same weekly cycle exists, then we should have no question as to which is the seventh day.

Question 7

The manna experience is another good example of how God sought to very clearly identify which was the seventh day. God did not leave it to chance. He performed a double miracle so that folk would know which was the day that God has specified His children should keep.

Question 8

This is one of the most powerful arguments identifying which day is the seventh. Most of your students will very clearly see the Sabbath when they realize that the Bible says the Sabbath is the day between the day Jesus died and the day that He arose.

However, you could possibly have some students who believe in a Wednesday crucifixion. Amazingly, most of those who believe in that will also believe in the Sabbath.

Those people will not give you any question of which is the Sabbath, but some of them will question the fact that Christ died on Friday and rose on Sunday.

This group believes that Christ died on Wednesday and rose on Sabbath afternoon. They have based this belief on the fact that Christ predicted that He would be in the tomb for three days and three nights. They interpret this to mean 72 literal hours.

What they have failed to account for is the fact that the Bible writers used the principle known as inclusive reckoning, which means that they regarded any part of a day as a whole day. It is not fair to place our method of reckoning time into the Biblical account and insist that is what the Bible writers meant.

We must ascertain what the Bible writers meant in their day.

Archaeology has firmly established the principle of inclusive reckoning as the principle by which they reckoned time. Thus Friday was considered by them a day and a night, Saturday a day and a night. Sunday, the day of the resurrection, was the third day and night. As long as an event occurred on that day it was considered a complete day.

There are a few texts that make it very clear that Christ died on Friday and arose on Sunday. We will notice just a couple of them here. Mark 16:9 states unequivocally that Jesus was risen early the first day of the week.

If He had been resurrected on Sabbath afternoon, in no way could the Scripture writers declare that He was risen on the first day of the week. Luke 24:18-21 describes the two men as they walked on the road to Emmaus and Jesus appears in their midst. Verse 20 indicates that they were talking about the day of the crucifixion. Verse 21 says that Sunday afternoon, while they were walking on the road to Emmaus, was the third day since the crucifixion. If Sunday afternoon was the third day there is absolutely no way to get back to Wednesday as the day of the crucifixion.

The expression "three days and three nights" was simply an idiom that meant "the day after tomorrow." Luke 18:32 mentions specifically "today, tomorrow and the third day," indicating again that the third day meant "the day after tomorrow."

If you have further questions on this you might read the little book published by Amazing Facts, **Three Days and Three Nights**. In fact, it would be well to have a few of these on hand to give to people in your seminar who have a question in this area.

You should not bring up this issue, but somebody may raise the question and you should be prepared to answer it.

Question 9

You have now established the fact that Saturday is the Biblical seventh-day Sabbath. The question that immediately comes to the mind of most people is how did it get changed to Sunday, because everybody today keeps Sunday. Of course, this is the very point of this lesson. There has

been a change, the Bible predicted the little horn would do it, and now you will need to share with your students the amazing story of the change of the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday.

Turn to Exhibit 1 and lead your students through the exhibit, calling their attention to the key points in the unfolding drama of the change of the Sabbath.

Do not read the exhibit through. Tell the story in your own words, pointing out some of the main points and using several of the quotations in the exhibit. You will need to go through the material in case some of your students have not had an opportunity to read the exhibit.

Remember, this is a long lesson for them to do. Some will get through the lesson but not through the exhibit. Therefore it is necessary for you to go through the exhibit with them.

The reason we have given the students so much material in this initial lesson on the Sabbath is in the case that some of them start sharing immediately with their friends. This will enable them to have enough information to adequately answer their friends and be convinced. If they only have partial information it is easy for their friends to persuade them to stop attending the seminar, so it is imperative that folk have a clear picture of the Sabbath truth. The rest of the lesson will then deal with the perpetuity of the Sabbath.

Question 10

Most Sunday keepers will try to say that the Sabbath originated at Mount Sinai and not at creation. Be sure to make a strong point of the fact that the Sabbath originated at creation.

Question 11

It is very significant that the Sabbath commandment begins with the word "remember." You will want to call to the attention of your students the various shades of meaning connoted by this word.