

Community Group Question Guide

Matthew 12:1-8 – *The Real Jesus*

- 1 At that time Jesus went through the grain fields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat.
- 2 But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, “Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath.”
- 3 He said to them, “Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him:
4 how he entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him to eat nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests?”
- 5 Or have you not read in the Law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless?
6 I tell you, something greater than the temple is here.
- 7 And if you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless.
- 8 For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.” *ESV*

Matthew 12:9-14 – *The Real Sabbath*

- 9 He went on from there and entered their synagogue.
- 10 And a man was there with a withered hand. And they asked him, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”—so that they might accuse him.
- 11 He said to them, “Which one of you who has a sheep, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out?
12 Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.”
- 13 Then he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And the man stretched it out, and it was restored, healthy like the other.
- 14 But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.

Compare & contrast the two Sabbath controversy scenes – 1-8 & 9-14

In the second scene, into whose synagogue did Jesus enter?

How do the actions of the Pharisees change from scene 1 to scene 2?

Why are the Pharisees going after Jesus here?

Why do you think Jesus used a sheep to illustrate his point?

In verse 12, what are the implications of Jesus definitive statement about the Sabbath?

Why is the Sabbath so important to the Pharisees?