

God's Special Gift

Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:8-11; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 47, 48



When do you start planning for your birthday? Is it the day of your birthday? Or do you start thinking about it weeks ahead of time? Isn't it fun to look forward to special days? On those days we can do special things, eat special foods, and even wear special clothes. Let's see what we can learn about God's holiday. It is a special holiday—a holy holiday.

"I can't wait until Christmas!" Tyler announced. Mom looked up and laughed. "But it's only May! I'd say you have a while to wait!"

"I know," Tyler groaned.

"So tell me why you can't wait until Christmas," coaxed Mom.

"OK, but may I play Christmas music?"

As Tyler put the music on he said, "I wish it were Christmas because I love being together with our whole family—grandpas, grandmas, cousins, everybody!

I like having time to play games and do things that we don't always get to do. Of course I love the presents, but I really liked giving that food basket to the Johnsons last

year. And I'm starving for some of your famous Christmas rolls!"

"You've been thinking about this quite a bit today, haven't you?" Mom smiled.

"Yeah, I guess so!" Tyler plopped down beside Mom on the couch.

"I've got good news for you!" She watched Tyler's face light up. "Jesus knows how you feel! In fact, that's exactly why He created the Sabbath for us." Mom laughed again, seeing Tyler's confused look. "OK, son, think about it. God made the Sabbath day after His busy work of Creation. He created a day just to spend with the people He created! It's His favorite day of the week! He wants the

Sabbath to be a kind of holiday every single week. He wants us to forget about all of the regular things we do all week, and just have a special day with Him.

"All of the things you mentioned about Christmas are things we enjoy about Sabbath too. We get to be with people we love. We do special things that don't happen every day. And we love to do things that can help make others happy. We even love having special food!" Mom grinned



The Message

I worship God when I enjoy His weekly gift, the Sabbath.

Memory Verse

“Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy”

(Genesis 2:3).

and reached over to hug Tyler.

“I never thought about Sabbath being like a holiday,” Tyler responded. He was really thinking about what Mom had just said.

“You know,” Mom added, “Jesus really looks forward to spending Sabbath with us. His love for us is so big. When He gave us the Ten Commandments, He said, ‘Remember the Sabbath day. Work well with Me all week, and then have a holiday with Me every Sabbath.’ Even though He is with you every day, that time with Him at the end of our busy week is so special! We can enjoy the beautiful things He’s made for us. We can come together and study His Word and learn more about His love. All of these are ways we tell Jesus that we love Him too!”

Tyler seemed to have forgotten how far away Christmas was.

“You’re right, Mom,” Tyler spoke thoughtfully. “Sabbath really is a special day. It’s even better than Christmas, because God gave it to us as a gift, and it’s every week! Let’s ask Grandma and Grandpa to be with us this Sabbath. It will make God’s special day even more special.”

How about you? Sabbath is God’s gift to you each week! When God finished creating the world in six days, He rested on the seventh day.

He blessed it and made it holy. Ever since Creation, the Sabbath holiday has been a special day to worship God. To enjoy the world He created. To tell Him how much we love Him. It is a holy holiday! This Sabbath, Jesus is looking forward to that special time with you!





S A B B A T H

READ Find a quiet place in nature and read your lesson story with your family. Try to find things God made on each of the days of Creation.

DO If you made a list of ideas for making Sabbath special in Sabbath School, share it with your family. If you did not make a list, create one with your family and plan to do one of the items.

DO Teach your memory verse to your family.

PRAY Thank God for family time.

S U N D A Y

READ During worship time, read and discuss Exodus 20:8 together.

DO Make a clock face out of stiff paper or a paper plate. Attach the hour and minute hands with a fastener. Write on the clock "Sabbath Begins at . . ." Find out when sunset comes this Friday. (Look at a sunset schedule or church bulletin.) Set the clock hands to that time. Put your clock on your refrigerator to remind you to be ready for Sabbath at sundown Friday.

PRAY Say your memory verse together. Thank God for His love and for the Sabbath.

Sabbath is so special that we will keep it holy in the new earth (Isaiah 66:23).



M O N D A Y

READ During family worship, ask someone to read about the first Sabbath (Genesis 2:1-3). Draw a picture of the first Sabbath. Write your memory verse at the bottom. Pray that you will think about Jesus every day this week, and that you will be ready for His special Sabbath time.

DO Ask your family to help you learn God's Sabbath commandment (Exodus 20:8-11).

T U E S D A Y

DO Today would be a good day to give the invitation to Sabbath School to your friend. At worship tonight, talk about your friend's response.

THINK Say your memory verse together. Tell your family: "Sabbath is a gift from God. I love Sabbath because _____."

DO Read or say together God's Sabbath commandment in Exodus 20:8-11. Then say this commandment in your own words. Thank God for His special holy holiday.

W E D N E S D A Y

SHARE With your family, read and discuss these texts. List what you discover about ways to worship God on Sabbath.

Proverbs 25:11

Exodus 15:1

Matthew 6:6

Romans 15:31

Psalms 47:1

Matthew 2:11

Psalms 145:1

DO Must you wait until Sabbath to do these things? Ask Jesus to help you worship Him every day.



T H U R S D A Y

READ During family worship, read about preparing for Sabbath in Exodus 16:14-16, 21-26. Then say your memory verse together.

DO With your family, make a Sabbath plan. Make sundown worship part of your Friday evening plans. Ask others in your family to do special things. Choose some songs.

PRAY Ask God to bless your plans.

F R I D A Y

DO Light some candles for sundown worship. Say the fourth (Sabbath) commandment together. Follow the worship plans you made yesterday. As part of your worship, have your family join you in saying your memory verse.

READ Read Mark 2:27. Why did God make the Sabbath? Thank Him for it.

PRAY Is your friend coming to Sabbath School with you tomorrow? Pray for a happy Sabbath day.

God's
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PUZZLE

Directions: To remember God's special gift, darken the triangles. Then read the remaining words.

a c g b n e x r l h j u e
 d d i b t e r w e f a o
 p l t m n e y v s p l m a
 j b s q b x t l a x v d t
 w h s v t a f m s u l r t
 g e o a b n d g h j ' s e
 m i h k o w q l e b i j d
 e x a u m y o q u e .