



## SERMON STUDY GUIDE

### Mark 2:23–28

Questions for the Week: Observing the Sabbath means resting from work to enjoy creation and celebrate salvation. How do you practice the Sabbath?

READ THE TEXT – Mark 2:23–28

### The Structure

1. Situation: While passing through grainfields, the disciples plucked heads of grain. (Mark 2:23)
  - 1.1. Plucking Heads of Grain as Legal (Deut 23:24–25)
  - 1.2. On the Sabbath
2. Pharisees' Objection/Confrontation (Mark 2:24)
  - 2.1. "Look what they are doing on the Sabbath"
    - 2.1.1. Plucking Heads of Grain
    - 2.1.2. Sabbath Regulation
      - 2.1.2.1. Built into Creation (Gen 2:2–3; Exod 20:11)
      - 2.1.2.2. Sabbath Regulation for Israel
        - 2.1.2.2.1. In the wilderness (Exod 16:4–5, 16–30)
        - 2.1.2.2.2. Ten Commandments (Exod 20:8–11; Deut 5:12–15)
        - 2.1.2.2.3. No Work (Exod 35:2–3; Lev 23:3)
        - 2.1.2.2.4. Sabbath Offerings (Num 28:9–10)
        - 2.1.2.2.5. Violation of Sabbath Command
          - 2.1.2.2.5.1. Death Penalty (Exod 31:12–17; Num 15:32–36)
          - 2.1.2.2.5.2. The Prophets (Jer 17:19–27)
          - 2.1.2.2.5.3. After Exile (Neh 10:31; 13:15–21)
          - 2.1.2.2.5.4. Associated with injustice (Amos 8:4)
    - 2.2. It is not lawful (see also Mark 3:4; 6:18; 10:2; 12:14)
  3. Jesus's Response (Mark 2:25–28)
    - 3.1. Appeal to the Example of David (Mark 2:25–26; see 1 Sam 21:1–6; see also 2 Sam 23:6–14; 2 Sam 8:17). On the bread of the presence see Lev 24:5–9; Exod 25:30.
    - 3.2. Purpose of the Sabbath (Mark 2:27)
    - 3.3. Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:28)

Activities and Questions this Week:

- Read the story that Jesus appeals to in the Life of David (1 Sam 21:1–6)
- Read the parallel retellings of the same story in Matthew and Luke (Matt 12:1–8 // Luke 6:1–5)
- Read and reflect on Jesus’s teaching about Rest (Matt 11:25–30)

Weekly Questions:

- What does this passage say about God?
- What stood out to you from the text this week?
- What does this text say about the Lord’s reign and what it means to be his set apart people?
- Who are the characters of this story?
- What does this passage invite us to:
  - Do?
  - Think?
  - Feel?
- How did the sermon or passage encourage you to Love God and Love People?
- Which characters do you identify with most in the story? Why?