

## THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON

**DATE:** May 12, 2019

**SUBJECT:** THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: The Fourth Commandment (2 of 2)—Remember the Sabbath Day

**SCRIPTURES:** Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 12:1-8; Luke 24:1-7; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Revelation 1:10; John 20:19-29

**AIM:** In the New Testament age we no longer keep the Sabbath Day. But as the early believers practiced in the Bible, we set aside the first day of the week (the Lord's Day) to get together and to remember the Lord Jesus because He was resurrected on this day.

**SUGGESTED MEMORY VERSES:** Psalm 118:24 (This is the day that Jehovah has made; Let us exult and rejoice in it.); Hebrews 10:25 (Not abandoning our own assembling together, as the custom with some is, but exhorting one another; and so much the more as you see the day drawing near.); Psalm 132:14 (This is My resting place forever; Here will I dwell, for I have desired it.)

**SUGGESTED SONGS:** 49 (This is Lord's Day); 192 (We are different); 8208 (You shall love the Lord your God); 146 (I want the Lord to have the first place in my heart); 3423 (I'd rather be with the people of God); 3401 (I am a very special child); 3117 (How we love the Children's Meeting); 3400 (I am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N); 152 (What can I give Jesus?); 3106 Bible Story Songs Matthew Vol. 2, Song #7 (He's the Lord)

**CRAFT IDEA:** The Lord is our real rest, so we can make a no-sew mini-pillow using two pieces of fabric, stuffing and scissors. An example can be seen at: <https://www.instructables.com/id/DIY-No-Sew-Pillow/>



**APPROACH:** Ask the children if they ever missed children's meeting. Why? Were they sick? Tired? Their parents could not take them that day? Birthday party? Soccer practice? Write down on the board their reasons for not coming. At the end of the lesson, the children can re-evaluate the reasons and see how they would handle the situation if it comes up again.

**CONTENT:** The fourth commandment that God gave to the children of Israel was: **“Remember the Sabbath day so as to sanctify it. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, But the seventh day is a Sabbath to Jehovah your God; you shall not do any work, you nor your son nor your daughter, your male servant nor your female servant, nor your cattle nor the sojourner with you, who is within your gates. For in six days Jehovah made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore Jehovah blessed the Sabbath day and sanctified it.”** (Exodus 20:8-11).

In the first lesson on this commandment, we saw that God commanded man to remember the Sabbath and to keep it holy. He wanted man to remember that he was created by God and for God. Man should not work seven days a week for himself and forget his God. In the **Old Testament age**, God's people kept **the Sabbath** on Saturday. Today, the Jewish people and even some Christians still set apart their Saturday as the Sabbath to honor the Lord. While we respect their heart to honor Him in this way, we must realize that in the **New Testament age** (after the coming of the Lord Jesus as a man), God's people should no longer keep the Sabbath day in an outward way. The Lord Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath and is the only One who gives us real rest. (Matthew 12:8 “For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”)

As God's people, we follow the pattern of the New Testament believers to set aside the first day of the week, Sunday, which we call **Lord's Day**, to honor the Lord. It is the day of the Lord's resurrection (Luke 24:1-7). On this day of resurrection the Lord met with His disciples and spoke with them, showing them that He had really risen from the dead. The disciples became encouraged and joyful. (John 20:19-

29). One of the disciples, Thomas was not present at this meeting. Because he missed the meeting, Thomas did not believe that the Lord Jesus resurrected and missed a great blessing, and he is now known as 'doubting Thomas'. This shows us that when we do not attend the meeting, we lose the opportunity to receive the Lord's speaking and His blessing. However, the Bible goes on to tell us that Thomas was present in the next meeting where the Lord met with His disciples. This time, Thomas believed.

Psalms 118:24 declares, "This is the day that Jehovah has made; Let us exult and rejoice in it." On this day, the saints gathered together for the Lord's table meeting (Acts 20:7a), and made offerings to the Lord in thanksgiving (1 Corinthians 16:2 a). God's people call the first day of the week the "Lord's Day", meaning that it belongs to the Lord and not to us. On the Lord's Day, we should go to the children's meeting with a proper attitude to worship the Lord, sing and praise, and learn about God's word! By giving the Lord the first day of the week, we can show that He has the first place in our lives.

**SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:** *Please pray and fellowship over which applications to cover. Please do not try to cover all the applications. It is sufficient to cover just **one or two applications** which are appropriate for the age group of the children you are serving.*

- On the Lord's Day we should come to the Children's Meeting to enjoy and appreciate the Lord with all of the other children rather than doing anything else or going anywhere else such as extra classes, sports or birthday parties. As we set apart this time to the Lord, we are presenting our bodies to Him. This pleases Him very much. We should thank Him that every week we have the Lord's Day.
- To honor the Lord is to give Him the highest place and respect. On the Lord's Day, we honor Him by:
  - a. Preparing our hearts for the Children's Meeting the night before by getting our supplies ready and completing any assignments (such as memorizing verses) we may have been given.
  - b. Going to bed on time so that we get enough sleep. This will help us rise up on time in the morning so that we will not be tired and sleepy when we come to the meeting.
  - c. Preparing an offering to the Lord out of what He has given us.
  - d. Helping our parents and younger siblings in the morning, so we all can arrive at the meeting on time. We should be sure that we ourselves are not the cause of our families being late.
  - e. Eating a good breakfast that will last through our snack time.
  - f. Dressing properly, especially in the summertime (not as if we're going to the beach or a park).
  - g. Asking the Lord to grant us a joyful heart when we come to Children's Meeting to sing praises to the Lord, and a willing heart to volunteer to pray. Our attitude and the way we behave should show our loving heart to the Lord. We will be really rejoicing and be glad on the Lord's Day and the Lord will be really, really happy too!

Adapted from *Bringing Children from Adam to Christ—The Ten Commandments*, Vol. 3, Lesson 9, and the Church in New York City Children's Meeting lessons: 6/21/98; 6/30/02; 8/03/08; 5/11/14; Lesson on Ten Commandments - Sabbath - from the church in Irvine, as edited with permission by the church in New York City.