

May 21

Mark 2:23-28

This passage tells about the disciples picking up some heads of grain on the Sabbath, and about Jesus tangling with the Pharisees as a result.

Question to Consider:

Jesus said, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath." What do you think he meant by that?

Prayer:

Father God, I know that the Sabbath is something I need. I need to set aside a day of the week that will be different from the others. I need to rest, and to focus my heart on you. Please help me to faithfully keep the Sabbath, however that might look in my life. I pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

May 22

Matthew 12:9-14

This passage describes another healing on the Sabbath.

Question to Consider:

The Pharisees were so angry with Jesus for healing on the Sabbath that they wanted to kill him. Think about your own faith. Is there a rule or custom you hold dear such that you get very angry when someone doesn't follow it? What is it?

Prayer:

Gracious God, I pray that I will always be strong in my faith, but also that I will be aware of what matters most. You and the people you put in my path are more important than rules. May I always put you and your people first. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

May 23

Luke 6:12-16

In these verses we read about Jesus choosing the 12 who would become apostles (the word *apostle* means "one who is sent").

Question to Consider:

Luke tells us that Jesus "spent the night praying to God." Have you ever spent an extended period of time in prayer? If so, how was the experience? If not, do you believe you *could* (admittedly not easy in our fast-paced culture)?

Prayer:

Almighty God, I want to grow as a person of prayer. Please help me to grasp more fully the blessings of a prayer-full life in which I spend time with you. (*add your own concerns, dreams, worries, etc*). In Jesus' name, Amen.

May 24

Matthew 5:1-12

These verses are the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, and they include the familiar “beatitudes.”

Question to Consider:

These verses include several statements that begin with “Blessed are you...” Which of those “blessed are you” statement touch you in a special way today? Why?

Prayer:

Merciful God, I know that I am blessed when I live my life with you and for you. Help me to read these verses in a new way and may they shape my life so that I become a greater blessing to you. I pray in the name of the one who spoke them, Jesus. Amen.

May 25

Matthew 5:13-16

Here we read that we are to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

Question to Consider:

Salt seasons food. How might you “season” life for the people around you? Light chases away the darkness. How might you bring some light into someone’s life?

Prayer:

Father God, you call me to make life better for the people around me – to season their lives and to help chase away the darkness. It is a call to action and I pray that I will respond faithfully. I pray in Jesus’ name, Amen.