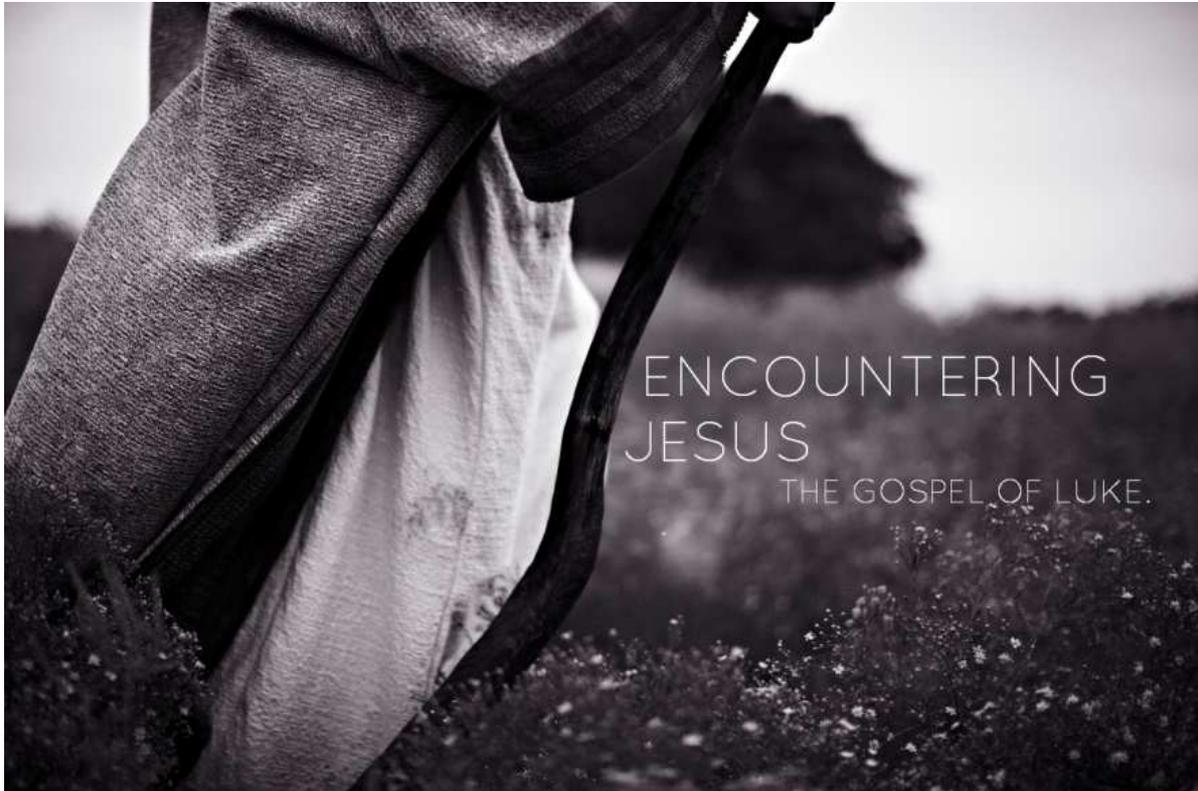




ENOGGERA BAPTIST CHURCH
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SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDES



Luke 6:1-11 – Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath

Luke 6:5 “The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.”

NOTE FOR LEADERS

This document is intended to be used as a discussion *guide*, rather than a curriculum. As small group leaders, please feel free to lead through the topic as most appropriate for your group.

HOUSEKEEPING

Things going on at the moment to remind your group of:

- **Project Lift** – This Saturday! 23rd May
- **Combined Prayer Night** – Keperra Baptist Thursday 4th June
- **Church Fast** – Thurs 4th & Fri 5th June
- **Clothes Swap Save the Date** – Sat 29th Aug
- **Read Tara’s (Chappie at Enoggera State School) email on the EBC FB Group and discuss!**



REFLECT

This is a time to generate some discussion around the ideas in the sermon. Some ideas include:

- Ask the group to debrief for those who missed the sermon on Sunday.
- What stood out? Do you have any questions?
- Were there any special moments of clarity where God spoke to you clearly?
- Why is this important and worth discussion?

THE BIG IDEA

Our culture is work obsessed. Whether it's because we build our identity on work and draw our meaning and significance from our success in the marketplace, or the all-pervasive nature of our modern work culture in which work has no walls and spills out into all other areas of our lives, the reality is concerning. The mess of mental health problems, anxiety, depression, and insomnia caused reveal that we do not understand work, and conversely, rest.

Over the last two chapters (4 & 5) Luke has been building a picture for us of Jesus, particularly focused on the nature of the authority of His word. We've seen Him teach with authority, rebuke demons and illnesses, command nature, restore community and relationships (to the leper) and even forgive a man's sins which he demonstrated by healing the paralytic. In Luke 6, we see the tension that has been building between the Pharisees and Jesus begin to erupt, as verse 11 sees their grumbling turn to fury. In this week's passage, Jesus is in conflict with the Pharisees over the true nature of the Sabbath, and declares to them: "the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27). The true heart of the Sabbath is rest – deep rest in God, and only in the finished work of Jesus on the cross can we truly find this rest.

Three Sabbath disciplines we can practice in our life today include:

RELIANCE: Sabbath rest means reliance on God. In our physical stopping from doing, we are practicing a habitual life of reliance, and declaring our trust in God. We are building into our lives a discipline that reminds us that God is God and we are not.

RHYTHMS: Sabbath rest means rhythms in life. To practice Sabbath is to prioritize time, and to build a rhythm of rest into your life.

REMAINING: Sabbath rest means remaining in rest. Because of the finished work of Jesus on the cross ("It is finished" John 19:30) the Sabbath is no longer a once a week rest, it is the Christian life. We can experience true Sabbath rest, even on Monday morning sitting at a desk in an office. Because of the gospel, there is now a Sabbath rest for the people of God (Heb 4:9)!



EXPLORE

Let's dig a little deeper. Use the biblical text to discover what God reveals to us in his Word.

RELEVANT SCRIPTURES

Luke 6:1-11 On a Sabbath, while he was going through the grainfields, his disciples plucked and ate some heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands.² But some of the Pharisees said, "Why are you doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath?"³ And Jesus answered them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him:⁴ how he entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those with him?"⁵ And he said to them, "The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."

⁶On another Sabbath, he entered the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was withered.⁷ And the scribes and the Pharisees watched him, to see whether he would heal on the Sabbath, so that they might find a reason to accuse him.⁸ But he knew their thoughts, and he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come and stand here." And he rose and stood there.⁹ And Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it?"¹⁰ And after looking around at them all he said to him, "Stretch out your hand." And he did so, and his hand was restored.¹¹ But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

Mark 2:27-28 ²⁷And he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath."

Matthew 23:23 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness.

Luke 11:46 Woe to you lawyers also! For you load people with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers.

Genesis 1:31-2:3 ³¹And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.² And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.³ So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

Hebrews 4:9-10 ⁹So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God,¹⁰ for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

Matthew 11:28-29 ²⁸Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.



UNDERSTANDING

1. **Getting Started:** Mike mentioned two factors which contribute to our modern overwork culture: we build our identity on work, and work has lost its walls and is now all pervasive in our lives. Which do you think is the more fundamental cause? Can you think of any other factors?
2. What is the Sabbath?
3. What is significant about God resting on the seventh day for our understanding of Sabbath? (**Leaders Note:** the seven day work rest cycle is a rhythm God built into creation himself, not just a part of the Mosaic Law)
4. What does Hebrews 4:9-10 mean? Do we rest in our own works?
5. Tim Keller said “the only way you can put ‘the doing’ down, is if you have been utterly satisfied with ‘the doing’.” The problem is our work is never done. How can we truly have rest from our work?
6. What does it mean to rest in Christ?

APPLY

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scriptures apply directly to their lives. Get group members to talk about the real life implications of the study.

1. Is there any immediate personal response to the sermon necessary for you?
2. Which of the three Sabbath disciplines (Reliance, Rhythms, Remaining) did you respond to? Why? What does this mean for your life, and your relationship with God? Do you need the group to keep you accountable in your commitments?
3. Have you got a skewed view of rest that reduces it to something purely physical? What is true rest? What does true rest look like in your life?
4. Do you find submitting to this Sabbath rhythm of rest difficult because you don't feel you really need it? What might this reveal at a heart level? Do you need to repent and place your trust once more in God's good plan for your life?
5. Is God calling **you** to any practical application? What positive steps can you take? Is there any active repentance necessary?

PRAY

Close time in prayer. Praise Jesus that the true work is done, that he is Lord of the Sabbath and that he calls us to rest in him.

HELPFUL NOTES

Luke 5:17–6:11 The Beginning of Controversy. Luke returns to the theme of opposition to Jesus (cf. Luke 4:28–30) by including five accounts of controversy (cf. Mark 2:1–3:6).



Luke 6:1–5 Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath. In this first Sabbath controversy (cf. vv. 6–11; 13:10–17; 14:1–6), Jesus announces that he is lord of the Sabbath.

Luke 6:1 On a Sabbath ... plucked and ate some heads of grain. The law permitted plucking grain from another person's field, but no instrument like a sickle could be used (Deut. 23:24–25). **Rubbing them** removed the outer chaff.

Luke 6:2 Some ... Pharisees considered plucking grain on the Sabbath as work and therefore forbidden. **You** (plural) includes Jesus in his disciples' activity, because a teacher was responsible for his disciples' actions.

Luke 6:3–4 what David did. The Sabbath is not mentioned in 1 Sam. 21:1–6, but the point is that David did something **not lawful** (cf. Lev. 24:5–9) by eating the **bread of the Presence** (i.e., the consecrated sanctuary bread). Jesus points out that both David and his followers did this unlawful act because of David's authority (cf. notes on Matt. 12:4; Mark 2:25–26): how much more, therefore, can David's Lord (cf. Luke 20:41–44) and his followers do something that meets a human need even though it violated the Pharisees' interpretation of the law.

Matt. 12:4 ate the bread of the Presence. Twelve loaves of bread, representing God's covenant with the 12 tribes of Israel, were to be baked and placed in the tabernacle on each Sabbath as an offering. The bread was only to be eaten by **the priests** (Lev. 24:5–9), but Scripture does not condemn David for eating the bread during his escape from Saul. The law was intended to serve God's people, rather than God's people being intended to serve the law (cf. Mark 2:27).

Mark 2:25–26 Jesus initially emphasizes that the restrictive Pharisaic interpretation of the law does not take into account the situation of need in which David and his men found themselves (1 Sam. 21:1–6). David ate the **bread of the Presence**, so it follows that, at least in the case of need, actions are allowed on a Sabbath that otherwise might not be permitted.

Luke 6:5 Jesus argument, essentially, is that the **Son of Man**—not the Pharisees through their regulations—ultimately rules over and interprets the **Sabbath**. See note on Mark 2:27–28.

Mark 2:27–28 The Sabbath was made for man. Jesus next emphasizes that man is not to be confined by the Sabbath but rather that the Sabbath is given as a gift to man (for spiritual and physical refreshment). Again Jesus emphasizes his authority as **Son of Man**. If the Sabbath is for the benefit of mankind, and if the Son of Man is Lord over all mankind, then the Son of Man is surely **lord even of the Sabbath**.

Luke 6:6–11 A Man with a Withered Hand. In a second Sabbath controversy (cf. vv. 1–5; 13:10–17; 14:1–6) Jesus exercises his power (4:14, 34; 5:17) and authority (4:32, 36; 5:24) to heal on the Sabbath.

Luke 6:6 withered. Paralyzed or atrophied.



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Luke 6:7 The scribes and the Pharisees (see 5:21) **watched** Jesus, not to gain insight but **to accuse him**. They would have conceded that life-threatening situations allowed for breaking the Sabbath, but this was not such a situation (13:14).

Luke 6:9 is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm ... ? Jesus had acted out of compassion to heal the man with the withered hand. His opponents, however, finding themselves in a dilemma, refuse to answer (cf. 13:15–17; 14:5–6; 20:3–7).

Luke 6:10 Stretch out your hand. Jesus pointedly did not do anything in this situation that could be called “work”: he did not even touch the man, but simply spoke a word (and surely *speaking* is not prohibited on the Sabbath!). Nor did the disabled man do any forbidden “work,” for he simply stretched out his hand. Jesus’ accusers were silenced, and they were furious (v. 11). **his hand was restored**. This is proof that Jesus is lord of the Sabbath (cf. v. 5).

Luke 6:11 they were filled with fury. Even a mighty miracle cannot change their hardened hearts. **What they might do to Jesus** serves as the conclusion of vv. 1–10 and foreshadows his suffering and death.

REFERENCE:

Developed with the help of the following:

- Tom Wright. For Everyone Bible Study Guides – Luke.
- Ada Lum. A LifeGuide Bible Study – Luke: New Hope, New Joy.
- Biblica. Understanding the Books of the Bible: Luke-Acts
- Kent Hughes & Bryan Chapell. Preaching the Word: Luke – That You May Know The Truth.
- ESV Study Bible, Crossway.