

After the Creation account in Genesis chapter 1, there appears to be a significant break in the rhythms of "...and God said...it was so...and it was good." As chapter two opens, creation is finished and God rests. He also proceeds to make the seventh day special, hallowing it.

## Genesis 2:1-3

# The Sabbath

### I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

#### **MY EXPERIENCE...**

#### **YOUR EXPERIENCE...**

Within the greater umbrella of Christianity, there are numerous interpretations and practices surrounding the Sabbath and what it means (if anything) to us today. These differences can sometimes appear minor, and other times are quite controversial.

### II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

**WHAT** thoughts first come to mind when you consider the Sabbath?

**Do** you think there's significance in observing the Sabbath today?

**WHY** do you think many evangelicals celebrate a "new Sabbath" day on Sunday?

**WHAT** questions, concerns, or convictions do you hold when it comes to the Sabbath?

# Genesis 2:1-3

## The Sabbath

# Genesis 2:1-3

### OBSERVATION

According to vs. 1, what was true of the heavens and the earth?

What did God do on the seventh day (vs. 2)?

According to vs. 3, what did God do regarding the seventh day, and why?

What repeated words/phrases do you see in this specific text?

### INTERPRETATION

What does it mean that God rested? Was he tired, or was there another purpose?

What does it mean to make something holy? What does it mean that God made the seventh day holy?

Was it important to the Lord that this day be kept as a special day? Consider Exodus 20:8-11, 31:14, 17, and Leviticus 23:3.

Did this day of rest signify other aspects of the Lord, in the Old Testament, specifically? See Deuteronomy 5:12, 15; 16:22-26 for insight.

How did Jesus and others in the New Testament view the Sabbath? Consider Mark 2:23-28; 3:1-6.

What did Jesus mean by Mark 2:27, and how might this relate to Matthew 11:28?

Read John 19:28-30. What connection might we make (if at all) between Jesus' words on the cross and the Lord's completion of creation in Genesis 2:1?

Do you think Scripture indicates a proper shift from observing the Sabbath to observing the Lord's Day (Sunday) from Scripture? Consider Acts 20:7, 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, and Revelation 1:10.

How does Hebrews 4:8-11 inform our observance of *rest* today?

### APPLICATION

In what practical way should God's gift of rest influence our lives today?