

# Sermon-Based Small Group Bible Study

## Encounters with Jesus: Jesus and the Pharisees (Luke 6:1–5)

### Open

Select one of these “ice breakers” to get the conversation going toward the study.

- When you’re traveling and hungry, what do you like to get to eat?
- What is your favorite way to spend a day off?
- When you were in school, what rule seemed silly to you?

### Dig

After reading Luke 6:1–5 together, discuss these questions.

1. This story begins with a dispute about Sabbath, when no work was allowed and rest was required. Read Exodus 20:8–11. What did Sabbath celebrate? Also read Deuteronomy 5:12–15. What else did Sabbath celebrate? What are some words you would use to describe those events—God creating the world and God delivering Israel from slavery in Egypt?
2. Picking grain from someone else’s field sounds like theft to us, but according to Israel’s laws and customs, hungry travelers were welcome to pick and eat what they could reach from the road. What are some words you would use to describe such a custom?
3. The Pharisees tried to observe God’s law as carefully and thoroughly as possible. To keep the Sabbath well, they listed as many kinds of work as they could imagine. What are some words that come to mind that describe their outlook? Try to think of positive as well as negative terms.
4. Jesus tells a story from 1 Samuel 21 when the high priest let David, who was fleeing for his life, have bread that was by law reserved for the priests. What do you think motivated the priest do to this? How do you think this story connects to the Pharisees and Jesus?
5. Look at what Jesus says about himself (“the Son of Man”) in verse 5. Considering where Sabbath comes from and what it is based on, what is Jesus claiming? Where does Jesus then stand in relation to the disciples? The Pharisees? The Law of Moses? God’s work in the world?

### Reflect

Use any of these prompts to encourage group members to apply the text to their own experiences.

- Is there a time in your life when you were very aware of God’s mercy? When you were very aware that you needed God’s mercy?
- In what part of your life do you especially need Jesus’ Sabbath rest right now?
- Are there “rules”—of your own making or that you’ve “inherited” from others—that are keeping you from responding to Jesus or resting in Jesus?

### Pray

Invite the group to pray together using any of these suggestions.

- What needs have you heard from others in the group that we can pray about?
- What are some specific expressions of God’s mercy that you need right now?
- How has God been providing for you? Let’s give thanks for those acts of mercy.