

Women's Bible Study
Discussion Questions

Matthew 12

1. In Matthew 12:1-14 the Pharisees accuse Jesus of breaking the Sabbath. After reading 1 Samuel 21:1-6 and Hosea 6:6 for background, describe how Jesus responds to the Pharisees' charges. In what areas of your life do you tend to be legally correct but far from God in attitude?
2. In vs. 9-14, Jesus heals a man with a withered hand. After re-reading Matthew 8:28-34, describe what you have learned from these passages about the value Jesus places on human life. Why do the Pharisees react to Jesus's demonstration of mercy in the way they do?
3. According to vs. 14-21, how far has the Pharisees' antagonism to Jesus gone? What do they intend to do? How does Jesus react to this development? Why does Jesus forbid the people to witness to his powers?
4. Matthew 12: 18-21 quotes Isaiah 42:1-4 to describe the Messiah. What specific qualities describe the Messiah? Which of these have you seen thus far in Matthew's Gospel?
5. In vs 38-45 the scribes and Pharisees ask Jesus for a sign. Considering what has happened up to this, what is ironic about their request? What does Matthew 16:1 tell us about the type of sign they are requesting? Why are they only going to be given the sign of Jonah?