Salvation is simple. The jailor who awoke to find the prison doors opened but every prisoner still in their cell asked Paul and Silas, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” (Acts 16:30). The answer was straightforward and succinct: “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house” (Acts 16:31, KJV).

Salvation is also mysterious. Paul speaks of the “mystery of the gospel” (Eph. 6:19). Peter states that even “angels desire to look into” “this salvation,” which “the prophets have inquired and searched carefully” (1 Pet. 1:10, 12).

Indeed, the gospel contains mysteries: how the Author of life died on a cross; how an omnipotent God could create a proverbial rock that He cannot move—that is, human free will; how we are complete in Christ (Col. 2:10) and yet still a work in progress (1 Cor. 15:1, 2, ESV); and “Christ in you, the hope of glory” is the mystery of how it is possible to present “every man perfect in Christ Jesus” (Col. 1:27, 28).

It would be arrogant to think that our finite minds could effortlessly fully grasp the infinite realities involved in God’s work. Salvation is a divine work consisting of elements that are equally simple and mysterious. Inasmuch as the Sabbath commemorates God’s work of creation, it furnishes lessons to help us comprehend, however limited, His work of salvation in our lives.

This week we focus specifically on the aspect of sanctification in the salvation experience. The Sabbath has lessons to teach us here, both as we reflect on the theological concept of the Sabbath and as we strive to observe it in our lives.
Write out Exodus 31:12–18 from the Bible translation of your choice. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

**Circle** repeated words/ phrases/ideas

**Underline** words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw **Arrows** to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Exodus 31:12–18. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

How do you balance complete dependence upon God with His expectation of obedience?

What are areas of your life where you are waiting for God to do for you what He has already put in your power to do for yourself?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/sab06-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

Other than the Sabbath, what else are we called to keep holy?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/sab06-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

1 Thessalonians 4:3
1 John 5:3
John 17:17
1 Peter 1:2, 22
1 Samuel 15:22
Ephesians 2:10
Ephesians 5:25–27

What other verses/promises come to mind with Exodus 31:12–18?

Review your memorized verse from Exodus 31:12–18.
Where do you see Jesus in Exodus 31:12–18?

In what areas of your life do you find yourself being impatient with God?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/sab06-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, what personal applications are you convicted of in your life?

What are applications can be made in your social life?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/sab06-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

What are areas in your life where you can change?

What are areas in your life where you absolutely need the power of God to change?

How does one know the difference between these two areas?

How are obedience and sanctification linked? Why?

What are aspects of your spiritual development that have occurred instantaneously?

What are aspects of your spiritual development that have taken longer than you thought? Why do you think this is so?

How do you explain sanctification to someone who has never experienced it before?

What does the Holy Spirit working in you to will and to do of His good pleasure feel like?

Sabbath Sanctification