GUARDIANS OF THE SEAL

The world’s most popular art museum is the Louvre in Paris, France. The museum houses the most famous painting in the world: the Mona Lisa, also known as La Gioconda—reputedly the most heavily insured work of art in the world displayed behind bulletproof glass since 1956. While the Mona Lisa is just one of more than 7,500 paintings in the Louvre, 80 percent of visits to the Louvre are for this painting. Made by a man, an imperfect man, the Mona Lisa is now more than 500 years old and still going strong because of the stratospheric value placed upon it and, consequently, of rigorous protection.

The Sabbath day, made by the omnipotent, almighty Creator, is roughly six thousand years old, and has virtually petered out from the world despite a stentorian command from the universal sovereign to guard it—not behind bullet-proof glass, but in the heart! “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy” (Exod. 20:8, KJV) God commands. To “keep it holy” is to set it apart, or to dedicate it to a holy use, or to consecrate it for a sacred purpose. The command is to preserve God’s flawless artistry. Because of general consensus of the consummate skill of Leonardo da Vinci, no one attempts to improve or alter the Mona Lisa. They preserve what was made . . . without a command from Leonardo da Vinci! But, even with a direct command from the Creator and Sustainer of life, spoken with a voice that shook the earth, very few preserve, protect, or observe the Sabbath (Heb. 12:26).

Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy in the fleshy museum of the obedient heart!
Write out Exodus 16 from the Bible translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Exodus 16:4, 5. 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 16. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

For a Christian, where is the locus of merit to hard work?

How can the mindset of seeing work as a curse be revised?

Read more at
www.inversebible.org/sab11-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

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

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

How do you balance a faith that trusts God’s providence with preparedness and a need to plan for the future?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/sab11-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Leviticus 23:3
2 Thessalonians 3:10
Colossians 3:22–24
Genesis 2:15
Mark 15:42

What other verses come to mind in connection with Exodus 16?

Review your memorized verse from Exodus 16.
Where is Jesus in Exodus 16?

How is the way we prepare for the Sabbath a reflection of our relationship with Jesus?

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/sab11-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

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

What are practical applications you must make in your family, academic life, workplace, and church?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/sab11-7
inQuire

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 does the treasuring of masterpieces reveal about humanity?

How does the Sabbath vivify excellence in your personal life and work?

In addition to rest, how do you connect work with Sabbath?

How do you prepare for secular events?

How do you prepare for spiritual events?

How are these two similar and different?

Where are areas you can work on regarding preparation?

How can you continue to preserve the uniqueness of the seventh-day Sabbath?

How is Sabbath preparation connected to preparation for the second coming of Jesus?

Are You Ready?