

T H E T E N

COMMANDMENTS
THROUGH THE EYES OF JESUS

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 8 October 8, 2023

“Do Not Steal”



OPENING PRAYER

Lord, thank you so much for your mercy and grace. From Mount Sinai you revealed the Ten Commandments and you taught us what it meant to be human. And we recognize, O Lord, that we have all sinned and fallen short of your glory. We have all stolen something from someone. Please guide us, O Lord, that we may not be people who steal but instead people who give generously; people who live with integrity and walk humbly with you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Exodus 20:15 (NIV)

You shall not steal.

Exodus 23:4-5 (NIV)

⁴If you come across your enemy's ox or donkey wandering off, be sure to return it. ⁵If you see the donkey of someone who hates you fallen down under its load, do not leave it there; be sure you help them with it.

Deuteronomy 24:7 (NIV)

If someone is caught kidnapping a fellow Israelite and treating or selling them as a slave, the kidnapper must die. You must purge the evil from among you.

James 5:1-5 (NIV)

¹Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. ²Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. ³Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. ⁴Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. ⁵You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.

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INTRODUCTION

The eighth commandment, like several of the other commandments, might seem so irrelevant to us. Most of us would agree that stealing is wrong and we would never do it. But most of our images of stealing are related to shoplifting or somehow taking someone’s material possessions. But when properly understood, we have all violated the eighth commandment; and God is calling us to stop stealing.

Violating the eighth commandment may look like not telling the server in a restaurant they forgot to charge you for drinks. It may be using someone else’s Netflix account to watch your favorite shows. It may be exaggerating your deductions on a tax return. It may be selling a car or other property and not being honest with the buyer about the condition of the item. It also includes stealing someone’s time when you are late for an appointment. This among many other examples is a violation of the eighth commandment. So let’s rethink what stealing is and change our behavior.

QUESTIONS

1. When you hear the commandment “do not steal,” what comes to mind?
2. Read Exodus 23:4-5 (on page 1). Did you ever keep something you found without making an effort to find the owner?
3. Read Deuteronomy 24:7 (on page 1). Scholars believed that the 8th commandment’s primary purpose was a prohibition against stealing people. How are people violating the spirit of this commandment in the 21st century?
4. Read James 5:1-5 (on page 1). During the sermon, Pastor Eric said “the eighth commandment applies to exploiting workers by withholding wages or paying employees a substandard wage”. Do you feel that there is injustice in wages in our culture? If so, what can we do to change it?
5. Read the introduction above. Which one of these examples have you violated in the past? What can you do to change this behavior?

FINAL APPLICATION

This week, reflect on some ways you may be violating this commandment after hearing the message. What do you need to do to change?