

T H E T E N

COMMANDMENTS
THROUGH THE EYES OF JESUS

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 10 October 22, 2023

"Contentment: Do Not Covet"



OPENING PRAYER

Thank you, O Lord, for the gift of these Ten Commandments. Jesus we ask that you would help us to live them as you interpreted them. Forgive us for the many ways we've violated them. Help us to trust in you, to walk with you, and to love you. And help us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Exodus 20:17 (NIV)

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Luke 12:15 (NIV)

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

Romans 7:7-12 (NIV)

⁷ What shall we say, then? Is the law sinful? Certainly not! Nevertheless, I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."⁸ But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of coveting. For apart from the law, sin was dead.⁹ Once I was alive apart from the law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died.¹⁰ I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death.¹¹ For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death.¹² So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 10 *October 22, 2023*
“Contentment: Do Not Covet”

INTRODUCTION

The tenth commandment warns us not to covet. Coveting in the Hebrew Scriptures is defined as strongly desiring something; and in the New Testament as the desire to have more constantly. We all struggle with coveting in our lives. We all want the latest stuff and what our neighbors have that we don't have. We convince ourselves that if we just had more stuff our lives would be better. However, Jesus tells us our lives do not consist in an abundance of possessions.

The Ten Commandments form guardrails to protect us from harm and guideposts to point us in the right path. The tenth commandment warns us not to covet and Jesus points us toward the opposite of covetousness which is contentment. The keys to live a life of contentment are gratitude, generosity and love. When we can love God fully and love our neighbor as ourselves we find the good and beautiful life.

QUESTIONS

1. When you hear the commandment “do not covet,” what comes to mind?
2. What is one thing that you desire to have (car, house, electronic equipment, vacation etc.) that you believe will make you happier in life if you get it?
3. It's not a sin to admire someone else's nice things (or relationships). But have you ever found admiration turning into an almost obsessive wish that you could have something (or someone) who “belongs” with someone else? How can that damage you and others, even if you don't act on it?
4. Whose position, possessions or prospects do you envy? How much does it matter to you how you or others reach “success”?
5. Read Romans 7:7-12 (on page 1). In Romans 7, Paul said the tenth commandment showed him that he needed a Savior, no matter how proud he was of his Pharisaic outward righteousness. When have you had moments of insight into things that needed to change inside you?

FINAL APPLICATION

This week, focus on living a life of gratitude, generosity and love when you feel the desire to have something you don't have. How can this group help?