

NO STEALING

The Tender Commandments

EXODUS 20:15

Ice Breaker: Have you ever had something stolen from you? How did it make you feel?

BACKGROUND: The Ten Commandments are more than a list of rules, they are loving direction from a Father's heart.

THE BIG PICTURE: God wants us to trust Him. He is our Provider. He wants us to know that He will supply all of our needs.

DIGGING DEEPER:

READ EXODUS 20:15.

INTRODUCTION: Stealing is a big issue in our day — and since the beginning of mankind. List ways people can steal from others. What are some ways we justify stealing? Why does God put this in the top ten? (See Philippians 4:11-12, 19)

WHY DO PEOPLE STEAL?

1. We're looking to something other than God to fulfill us. Why is instant gratification so important to us? Why does it appear that "things" will make us happy? What is the only thing that will bring true contentment/fulfillment?
2. We're trusting something other than God for our security. Where do you find security? When we trust fully in God, how does He make us secure? (See Psalms 16:5, 8-9)
3. We don't really believe God will be our Provider. Why would people prefer to believe their future lies in their own hands? What attitude should we have toward acquiring anything? What does the Bible say about God's provision for us?
 - Read Ephesians 4:28. What reward is there for working hard and then giving part of your earnings to the needy? Have you ever done that? How did it make you feel?
 - Read Matthew 6:25-33. With who did you most identify: Jesus, the lilies, the sparrow, or the worrier? What is the good news in this passage for you?

ULTIMATELY, THE FIRST ONE WE STEAL FROM IS GOD

Will man rob God? Read Malachi 3:7-11 and Deuteronomy 8:1. What is the purpose of the tithe? What should our attitude be about giving?

CONCLUSION:

- One way to guard against stealing is to remember and be grateful for what we have. What are some ways you can cultivate gratitude in your heart and life? How can you trust more fully in God when temptation arises?
- How did this week's message make a difference in your life?
- How do you see God's love and grace in this commandment?