

Topic: The Ten Commandments – Love Man (Not to Steal)

Note: The practical applications provided in the lesson are offered as suggestions to help the saints in their preparation. They are not meant to direct or limit the ways in which the focus of the lesson can be applied. The saints are encouraged to pray and contact the Lord to receive His burden and guidance in teaching and applying the lesson. Fellowship with other saints, and inquiring of the children themselves, may also bring out many helpful applications.

Elementary:

Verse: “You shall not steal” (Exodus 20:15).

Focus: The eighth commandment is to love others by not stealing from them. To steal is to take what rightfully belongs to someone else without permission. We should not take anything that belongs to someone else without first getting their permission.

Practical Application: The children likely have all experienced wanting something that is not theirs. See if they have found themselves in this kind of situation: Their friend has a bag of cookies and they want one. The friend puts down the bag and goes to play, and the child may see an opportunity to take a cookie. To do so would be stealing. Instead, we need to ask for permission whether we can have it. Stealing does not have to be taking something big or costly--it can involve something small. Even if we think taking one won't make a difference and we can get away with it because there are still so many (such as taking just one cookie), as long as we take something that belongs to another person without permission, that is stealing.

Intermediate:

Verse: “He who steals should steal no more” (Ephesians 4:28a).

Focus: The eighth commandment is that man should not steal. Stealing can include habitually “borrowing” things which are not ours and “forgetting” to return them, and also taking an item which appears to have been “lost” by its owner. We should make restitution (give back/restore) anything that we have stolen.

Practical Application: Stealing can include the descriptions/situations listed above in the “Focus.” For example, at the end of the day as you are leaving your classroom, you notice a bracelet on the floor. You don't know who it belongs to, and it appears to have been dropped, so you take it. Or, you repeatedly ask your friends to borrow a pencil (or eraser, or something), and never remember to return these items. These situations where we have/keep things that do not belong to us amount to stealing. All these things need to be given back/repaid.

Advanced:

Verse: “And Zaccheus stood and said to the Lord, Behold, the half of my possessions, Lord, I give to the poor, and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore four times as much” (Luke 19:8).

Focus: The eighth commandment is that man should not steal. Stealing from others is disrespectful to that person and to God. We should also respect God as the One who provides us with what we need. We should ask God to provide rather than steal.

Practical Application: It is wrong to steal from a person, and it also does not show respect to that person or to God. To take something that belongs to someone else shows that we do not care about them or love them. We should respect others as well as the things that belong to them. We should also honor God as the One who provides us with what we need. When we steal, we are not trusting God to provide what we need. Whatever need we may have, we should ask God to provide rather than steal from others. Also, if we have stolen anything, we need to confess and return the item (make restitution).