

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

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 covet...” (Exodus 20:17a).

Focus: The tenth commandment is to love others by not coveting what they have. To covet is to want what others have. We should be thankful for what we have and not desire what others have.

Practical Application: Ask the children if they have ever wanted something their siblings or friends had, e.g., bigger Lego sets, fancy bikes, nice dolls, etc. When their sibling gets a new toy, do they want a new toy also? That feeling of wanting what others have is to covet. To covet makes us jealous or greedy. Help the children to be thankful for what they have. It may be helpful to ask them to identify things that they can and should be thankful for.

Intermediate:

Verse: “You shall not covet...anything that belongs to your neighbor” (Exodus 20:17).

Focus: The tenth commandment to not covet touches the matter of greed in our heart. When we are not thankful for the things which we have but want what others have, this opens the door for us to lie and steal, and even to hurt others.

Practical Application: Ask the children if they have ever wanted something that their classmates or friends had at school, e.g., nicer backpacks, unique school supplies, fancier toys and games, etc. What if they noticed a nice pen they really want on a classmate’s desk? What might happen if they continue to covet that pen? If they don’t deal with the covetousness in their heart, it is possible that the pen might end up in their possession in a wrongful way. Our coveting of things, great or small, can cause us to lie and steal, or to hurt others in order to obtain those things. Discuss with the children that this is how crimes (in children and adult) can occur. Emphasize the need to be thankful for and even content with what they have.

Advanced:

Verse: “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that belongs to your neighbor” (Exodus 20:17).

Focus: The tenth commandment to not covet exposes our heart. Even though we have been given the things we need for our living, our heart always wants more. It is never satisfied with what it has. Because of the sin of covetousness there is no one who is without sin and who doesn’t need God’s salvation.

Practical Application: Ask the children of their experiences of wanting what others have. Although we may not actually lie, cheat, steal or hurt others to get it, inwardly, we cannot help but have the feeling of wanting what others have. This feeling, desire, or wish (even without any outward action) is the sin of covetousness. Help the children realize that God’s commandment is that we do not covet. Is anyone able to not covet? Because every human being covets something, every human being commits this sin against God, and therefore needs God’s salvation. (If this particular point genuinely or deeply touches any child, the serving one can consider sharing the gospel of God’s salvation.)