

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: To win, build and send Department of Defense leaders to live for Jesus Christ

Ten Commandments for the 21st Century

Feb 2013

LESSON # 9 – YOU SHALL NOT STEAL

INTRODUCTION

Can you remember a time when you stole something? Describe it.

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Note: Billions of dollars are lost over the theft of goods and services. One estimate says that 1 out of every 52 shoppers carries something out of the supermarket for which they haven't paid. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, 4 million people are caught shoplifting every year. But for every one caught, 35 others get away with it. This means that there are over 140 million incidents of shoplifting every year in America! What's shocking is that only 10% of all shoplifters come from low incomes. 70% are middle class and 20% are classified as wealthy (e.g. Wynona Rider). America is a country of thieves. One new hotel reported that in their first ten months of operation they lost 38,000 spoons, 18,000 towels, 355 silver coffee pots, 1500 finger bowls and 100 Bibles.

Keith Walker, Sermon Central

Read Ex 20:15; Lev 6:1-7; Josh 7:20-26; Acts 5:1-11

1. How does God want people to treat (His) property? Why is He concerned?
2. Why did Achan steal? What was the consequence?
3. What did Ananias and Sapphira steal? Why was the punishment so severe?
4. What do people steal? Malachi 3:8, 9 Prov 30:8-9
5. How does God want us to accumulate wealth? Gen 2:15; Matt 25:20,21; Prov 8:21; Matt 6:11; Eph 4:28
6. How do tithes and offerings test people's relationship to wealth? Luke 12:48b; 2 Cor 9:6, 7
7. What role should accountability about stealing have among Christians? Non-Christians?
8. How do you justify time at lunch? The gym? Bible study? Col 3:23

APPLICATION

- How can you make sure that you don't steal unknowingly and damage your Christian witness?
- What wisdom about stealing do you need to pass along to those in your circle of influence?

EIGHTH COMMANDMENT: "You shall not steal." Exodus 20:15

A man was having trouble tithing. One day he went to a Christian friend whom he knew had trusted God in this area and said, "You know, I just don't see how I can give 10 percent of my income to the church when I can't even keep on top of my bills." His friend replied in a surprising way. "John, if I promise to make up the difference in your bills if you should fall short, do you think you could try tithing for just one month?" "Are you kidding me?" "No," He replied, "I am not." "Okay then, sure. If you promise to make up any shortage, I guess I could try it for a month." Then his friend said, "John, think about what you just said. You'd be willing to put your trust in me – a mere man, just like yourself, who doesn't possess all that much in the world – but you can't bring yourself to trust your heavenly Father, who owns the entire universe."

James Emery White, You Can Experience an Authentic Life