



elev8

life on another level

Student Workbook

YEAR 3

**The Ten
Commandments**
Do not Covet

Bible Readings

Exodus 20:1-17

Micah 2

Psalms 73

James 3:14 to 4:17



Learning Outcomes

At the end of this week you will be able to:

- Locate the Ten Commandments.
- Express the theme of the tenth commandment in your own way.
- Apply your learning from the commandment to your own life and community using the Justice hierarchy.

Notes from Bible Reading

Scripture A word or phrase that stood out to me:

Observation What is happening in this Bible reading?

Application Something that I learned about who I am or how I should live:

Prayer What I would like to say to God, ask of God, or what I think God is saying to me:

Key Question What does it mean not to covet?

Engage

Go around the group and share one thing for each heading that has happened since you last met:

- Plus – What has been good or enjoyable?
- Minus – What has been difficult or painful?
- Interesting – What has been unusual or thought provoking?

If you were given ten million dollars to do whatever you wanted, what would you do with it?

Explore – Locate

- *What stood out to you in the Bible readings this week?*
- *What did you find meaningful or significant?*
- *Is there anything that you didn't understand or found confusing?*
- *Any questions or comments you may have?*

Four considerations:

1. Coveting means “yearning to possess or have”. Coveting what others have is a type of jealousy about wanting what others have and thinking you deserve it without actually earning it. It can often be the seed or starting point for intentions to be a false witness, stealing, committing adultery or murder.
2. Coveting what others have feeds the feelings of dissatisfaction with what you have yourself, causing you to devalue your current relationship with your partner and family, the friendships you have with your neighbour, or with other aspects or things in your life. It progressively erodes the joy and your appreciation of what you currently have. James 4 even suggests it is a sin if you allow your dissatisfaction to grow without stopping it when you know how to.

3. Coveting progressively turns you away from God, as he generally won't supply you with what you are increasingly desire, increasing your dissatisfaction with him as well, and the blessings you think you deserve from him.

This can result in you diverting your trust in God to look after you, to putting more trust in yourself (or other powers) to obtain your 'heart's desire'.

Materialism and consumerism increasingly becomes more 'real' as the provider of security, satisfaction and salvation from the problems you have in life. Not only your thoughts, but your commitment, energy, resources and efforts go into the adoration and pursuit of things, people or experiences rather than the one true God (Matthew 6:24).

4. As you turn to your thoughts, commitment, energy, resources and efforts go into the adoration and pursuit of things, people or experiences rather than the one true God, you lose your identity and purpose as 'little Christs' (or mini-saviours of the world).

Your imagination and energies are directed at other things than to see the Kingdom of God realised fully and experienced by all. God's vision of your life is no longer enough, and you need more than what he has called you to be and do in the world.

Explore – Express

Get a clear glass and fill it to the brim with water. Place it where everyone can see.

Rewrite and perform Psalm 73 as a contemporary song with modern day situations and words.

Alternatively create a play around Psalm 73.

Why do you think people to break this commandment?

How common do you think it is?

How can you tell if someone has sinned in this way?

What are people most likely to covet of others?

If someone believed fully that God will provide everything they need and God will ensure they get the best from God, how much would they sin by coveting others?

Explore – Integrate

The first commandment was about recognising who God actually is, and although commandments 2 to 9 have an element of intention, they are largely focussed on behaviour, or how someone actually acts.

The last and tenth commandment highlights intention, in particularly how trusting that individual is towards God's ability and desire to provide for that individual. To break this commandment is not to trust in God for their own needs and wellbeing but trying to achieve them in human ways.

Being filled with God's contentment and trust in our lives (like a cup filled to the brim) means there is no more space to fit anything else in (e.g. anything else that our neighbour or others might have).

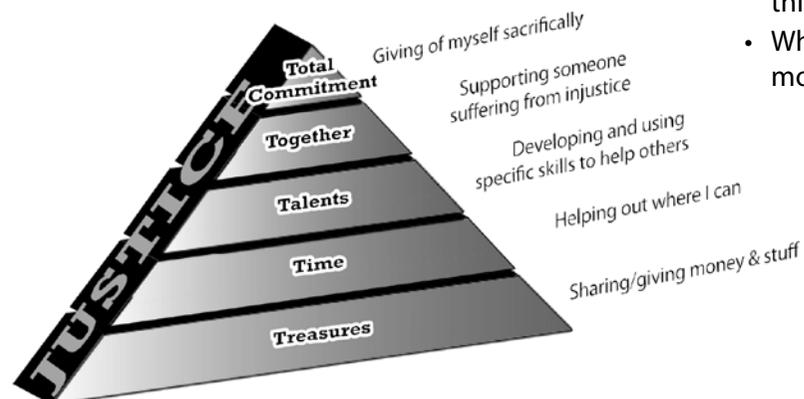
However we have to be honest and say that it is generally unlikely most of us will feel like we are filled by God to the brim continuously, and so when

we find ourselves coveting (or even thinking of coveting) that should be a reminder to seek God's contentment and Kingdom first.

After all, we have a world to save and redeem and potentially only a limited time to do so.

If God is God and is all-powerful, protective, near and caring:

- What treasures can I give away to grow my faith and contentment for what I do have?
- How can I give more of my time to reflect God's original dream?
- What skill can I develop further to be more active in God's dream?
- Who are the people I need to more directly get involved with their lives in order to help them experience the Kingdom of God become more real in their lives (and so divert my attention to things that might make me covetous)?
- What area of my life do I need to sacrifice to be more like God this week?



Extend

Discuss with your group the challenges you are tackling. Use the time to ask for any help you might need, or to work together on any shared projects that you have.

Questions that may be helpful include:

- What challenges are you working on at the moment?
- Do you need any support or assistance?
- Are there any challenges that you have completed that we need to recognise and celebrate?
- Are there any new challenges that you want to work on?

Encourage

Tell another student in your group something you value or appreciate about them.

Share one thing you would like to pray for and pray for one another.

Pray for us to be reminded especially this week that God is God and that he will provide me with what will truly satisfy me, and for the yearning to have what others have will continue to fade and be less important to me.

Give thanks for the way God views us, people that have all we need in order to bring more fulfilment and satisfaction into the lives of others.

Pray that I will live this out and help others (and myself) experience more of the fulfilment of the Kingdom.