



elev8

life on another level

Student Workbook

YEAR 3

The Ten Commandments

Do not Steal

Bible Readings

Exodus 20:1-17

Exodus 22

Malachi 3

Ephesians 4



Learning Outcomes

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

- Locate the Ten Commandments
- Express the theme of the eighth 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 to not steal?

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?

DVDs often come with a warning about downloading pirated movies or music is like stealing a car, purse or movie from the store.

Why do you think people download and pirate movies and music rather than buy it legally?

Do you think it really is a big deal?

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?*

Read together: Exodus 22:1-15 & Malachi 3:8-12

Do not steal is another commandment about how we relate to others.

Three considerations:

1. How does stealing affect the relationship between the person who steals and the person they stole from?
Why does Exodus 22 make the thief pay back more than he stole?
2. In addition to the physical act of taking someone else's property, causing the loss of someone else's property or income is classified under stealing (Exodus 22).
Is that fair?

3. Stealing can be when you also don't fulfil obligations to God and the community (e.g. give tithes and offerings as was required to aid the running of the temple or so that you may earn money that you can then share with others).
4. Stealing can be seen as trying to get something you haven't earned or deserved (Ephesians 4).

Stealing in the Bible seems to not only just physical act of taking away something from another person unfairly, but also any act that results in another unfairly losing property or income, while someone else is getting what they haven't earned or deserve.

Just as with the commandment about keeping the Sabbath has implications about fair working conditions for everyone, this commandment can also be about ensuring people get decent wages.

Explore – Express

Split into groups of four and each group is to make a TV advertisement for why stealing is good for the community. You are welcome to define stealing however you like.

See if you can come up with all the arguments that people might say against your campaign (e.g. why stealing is bad for the community) and then find a different way of looking at it. E.g. supermarkets and department stores already factor shoplifting into their prices, and to not steal would just give the already rich owners more profits, which in turn will make society more unfair (because of unequal income distribution).

Present your TV advertisement and have someone rate each one.

Stealing in the Bible seems to not only just physical act of taking away something from another person unfairly, but also any act that results in another unfairly losing property or income.

Using that definition of stealing, is it possible for someone to steal without realising they are stealing (causing the loss of property or income)?

Just as with the commandment about keeping the Sabbath has implications about fair working conditions for everyone, this commandment can also be about ensuring people get reasonable wages.

Employment can be a very contentious issue. Increasingly businesses are moving time-intensive manual work 'off-shore' to another country.

Local workers often protest that overseas workers are 'stealing' their jobs, even though it is their own local bosses' decisions to move operations.

However, the reason that companies move overseas is to exploit the lower expectations of wages and lower standard (i.e. cheaper) of their obligations to the workers there. That is we don't pay overseas workers what we think local workers deserve.

Increasingly there are many that say the responsibility isn't so much on the local bosses exploiting (or depriving) workers, but on the buyers of the products, who through ignorance or indifference, don't care about and so reinforce and encourage those companies to keep up their unfair practices.

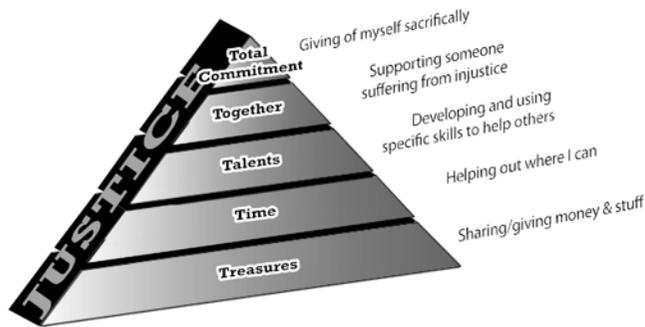
It is the customer that becomes the thief of the exploited worker's future (not allowing or standing up for what they deserve) through thoughtless consumerism and lifestyle.

Thankfully "Fair trade" products are on the rise, as is the awareness and action against sweatshops and child labour.

However, by and large, little consideration is given to 'ethical buying' by the average customer. Cheap products aren't always great for the people of the world (or the environment).

Explore – Integrate

The Bible often defines stealing as any act that results in another unfairly losing property or income. If God wants us not to take part in acts with this result...



Rather than just going for the cheapest products, how can I spend my money to ensure more people are getting a fair go?

- How will I spend about 30 minutes a week to find out more about the people that have income loss because of our society lifestyle choices?
- What skill can I use or develop to raise awareness of this issue?
- How can I be more directly involved with people that are affected by this issue and actually act?
- What area of my life do I need to sacrifice to help people directly involved to experience more what it is like to live in the Kingdom of God in the here and now?

Extend

Discuss with your group the challenges you are tackling. Use the time to ask for any help you might need.

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 that people everyday suffer through loss of property and income through the often thoughtless actions of others.

Give thanks that we have all that we need in our lives, and for the many additional resources we have that may allow us to share more with others.

Pray that God may help those that suffer through loss of property and income experience God's Kingdom in the here and now through the actions of God's people, and that God will help me be a part of that.