

Ninth & Tenth Commandments—Coveting



“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

— Exodus 20:17

FOCUS THIS WEEK

We are commanded to not covet our neighbor’s relationships or possessions. What does this mean in a world where people conspire to entice each other’s friends, loyalties and possessions away? Distinguishing healthy dreams and desires from those that become covetous is the key. We are commanded to not tempt or coax anyone away from their friends or their spouse. God’s people are not to scheme to take anything away from their neighbors.

NINTH COMMANDMENT:

You shall not covet your neighbor’s house.

LUTHER’S SMALL CATECHISM MEANING OF THE NINTH COMMANDMENT:

We are to fear and love God so that we do not desire to get our neighbor’s possessions by scheming, or by pretending to have a right to them, but always help him to keep what is his.

TENTH COMMANDMENT:

You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his cattle, or anything that is your neighbor’s.

LUTHER’S SMALL CATECHISM MEANING OF THE TENTH COMMANDMENT:

We are to fear and love God so that we do not tempt or coax away from our neighbor his wife or his workers, but encourage them to remain loyal.



SHARE highs and lows to set the stage for a more open and meaningful discussion.



READ and highlight the theme verse, Exodus 20:17. Then look at different translations of the theme verse. What do you notice? Does your understanding of the verse change? Translations to start with:

- Easy-To-Read Version
- The Message
- International Children’s Bible



TALK about how the Bible reading might relate to today's highs and lows. Supplement your discussion with some of the following.

A. IMAGES IN WORDS AND ART Take a look at the theme art and cartoons. What do you see in the art? How might the art and the theme verse apply to your group highs and lows today?

B. ROLE PLAY

1. A friend says: "If I'm not number one in my sport I feel miserable and I'm out to get whoever is ahead of me. Is there anything wrong with that?"
2. Your friend appears to have everything: looks, good grades, money, a great family. You start to become aware that you are jealous. What do you do?

C. QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. **What was the last thing you really wanted but couldn't possess?** *Accept and affirm all thoughtful answers. Share your feelings about something you really wanted but couldn't get. Ask the kids how they felt.*
2. **When might wanting something badly be good?** *Accept and affirm thoughtful answers. Remind everyone that wanting something badly can be good when we work honestly for it.*
3. **How might coveting and cheating someone be related?** *Coveting might lead you to look for a way to cheat someone out of rights, property, or other things.*

E. TERMS OF THE WEEK Review these key terms and write definitions.

Covet: To want something that belongs to someone enough that we plot to get it.

Envy: Desire for the possessions or qualities of another.

Jealousy: Resentfulness of something another person has.

Scheming: Plotting or planning to cheat someone out of what is rightfully theirs.

Tempt: To try to lure someone into doing something that is wrong.

D. QUOTATIONS Ask youth to choose a quotation and share their thoughts and questions about it.

I have held many things in my hands and have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess.

– Martin Luther

Until you make peace with what you are, you will never be content with what you have.

– Dori Mortman

You can't find happiness by trying to take it from another person.

– Dawn Wells

F. WRAP UP Summarize the event with your group, assigning someone to share what you learned at closing.

- One new thing we learned today
- One thing we already knew that is worth repeating
- One thing we would like to know more about



PRAY for one another. Praise and thank God for your highs. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you in your lows. Include your friend's highs and lows in your prayers. Invite youth to think of something going on in the world that calls for prayer.



BLESS one another by name. Trace a cross on each hand or forehead. Look them in the eyes and give them a smile. Ask for their blessing as well!