



## “You shall not steal.”

Exodus 20:15

### **SEVENTH COMMANDMENT:**

You shall not steal.

### **OBJECTIVE**

To help students understand the stealing commandment in its broadest perspective; not only are we to refrain from stealing, we are to aid the poor and assist people in keeping what rightfully belongs to them.

### **FOCUS THIS WEEK**

We are commanded not to steal. What does this mean in a world where students cheat on tests and adults are cheating on their income taxes? What does it mean in a culture where gambling is gaming, shoplifting is rampant and everybody is either looking for a quick fix or thinking the world owes them a living? We are commanded to fear and love God so that we do not take anyone’s money or property or get them in any dishonest way. Instead, we are to help them improve and protect their property and means of making a living.



### **SHARE**

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



### **READ**

and highlight the theme verse, “You shall not steal”, Exodus 20:15, then connect it to one or more of the following texts:

- Luke 19:8
- Romans 2:21



### **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. What do you see in the art? Ask youth where they are in the art. How might the art and the theme verse apply to your group highs and lows today?

## B. ROLE PLAY

1. You are working at the local burger joint. Your friends come in and expect you to slip them some free food. What do you say? What do you do?
2. You meet friends at the mall for lunch. One friend brags how easy it is to walk out of a store with T-shirts. Everyone dares you to do it. What do you say?

## C. QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. **Describe a time in your life when something you valued was stolen from you. What happened? How did you feel? What did you do about it?** *Listen carefully to all answers. Share your own experience.*
2. **How do people justify each of the following ways of breaking the seventh commandment?**
  - Shoplifting
  - Underpaying a worker
  - Cheating on income tax
  - Copying a DVD or CD
  - Cheating on a term paper
  - Loafing on the job

*Accept and affirm all thoughtful answers. Then ask: "If we knew someone were watching, would we shoplift, cheat, loaf..." Remind everyone that God is always watching.*

## D. QUOTATIONS

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

"Dad, is it all right to take things from people we don't like?" -Lisa Simpson

"The louder he talked of his honor, the faster we counted our spoons." -Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Share everything. Don't take things that aren't yours. Put things back where you found them." -R. Fulghum

## E. TERMS OF THE WEEK

Review these key terms and write definitions.

**Dishonesty:** Lack of honesty (e.g., lying, cheating, stealing).

**Honesty:** Truthfulness and/or sincerity.

**Integrity:** Following an honest code of ethics and morals in all you do.

**Preserve:** To keep safe from harm or damage.

**Steal:** To take property without permission or right.

## 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
- The highest highs and lowest lows which our group will bring to the closing prayer



## 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!