



Date: _____
Series: The Ten Commandments (Summer)
Year 4, Lesson 5

Don't Steal from Others

Primary Scripture: Exodus 20:14 –15

Key Verses: Exodus 20:14-15, “Never commit adultery. Never steal.”

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

When children see something they like, they naturally want to have it. However, it's important for them to understand that they cannot simply take whatever they want from others. Rather, they need to protect other people's things and other people's marriages. God protects our things and our relationships by commanding us not to commit adultery and not to steal. He also commands us to love others. Through Jesus' power and love, we show our love to others by respecting their belongings and their marriages.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus showed his love for us by giving his life for us. We, in turn, show our love to him and to others by respecting their belongings and marriages.

Jesus in us: Jesus lives in us and gives us the power to show love to others.

Jesus through us: Christ works through us to help us protect others by respecting their belongings and marriages.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Set the following objects on a table: a dollar bill, a baseball, and a small wedding picture. Also, have a hand-held grabber and a bag or purse available.



Kids, today I have a greedy grabber that reminds us of some important commandments that God gives us. See if you can guess which two commandments we will talk about today.

With this greedy grabber, I can get other people's stuff. For example, if I go into my brother's bedroom and see a dollar on the table, I can do this.

Using the greedy grabber, grab the dollar bill off the table, and put it into the bag.

Then when I see a baseball in my neighbor's yard and it has been there for a whole day, I assume my neighbor must have forgotten about it. That means he doesn't want it anymore. So my greedy grabber takes over, and away it goes.

Grab the baseball with the greedy grabber and put it in the bag.

Can you guess which commandment I am breaking? (Allow a child to answer.) **That's right. God says, "Never steal."**

There is another commandment that I'm thinking of, and this is especially for adults. This is when a man is married, and he sees someone else's wife and wants to go out with her. He breaks up the family by going out with another woman. So he does this...

Use the greedy grabber to take the wedding picture off the table, and put it in the bag.

Does anyone know which commandment was broken? Right. "Never commit adultery."

Today, we will discover how God wants to protect other people's stuff and to protect marriages so the greedy grabbers in our hearts don't try and take these things. So now, let's fill our hearts with God's love as we come to him in worship and listen to his word for us.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

All of us have a greedy grabber.

Hold it up.

We have all taken something that did not belong to us. The interesting thing is that we might have thought no one else noticed. Is that true? No. God sees all and he doesn't want us to hide. He wants us to put back what we have stolen and tell him what we have done. So, I'm going to do this.

With the greedy grabber, reach back into the bag, take the dollar bill out, and lay it back on the table.

This is called repenting and turning to God for forgiveness. As we repent, we must also remember to make it right with whomever we may have hurt by taking their stuff. Let's pray together now.

God, you know that all of us have greedy grabbers in our hearts that sometimes make us want to take things that are not ours. And right now, help us remember a time, or even more than one time, when we have done wrong.

Pause.

We turn to you and tell you that we are sorry. We ask in Jesus' name for the power of your forgiveness so that our greedy grabbers won't grab other people's stuff. But instead, we will do whatever we can to protect their belongings. Thank you for the power of your forgiveness working in our lives. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Song of Response:

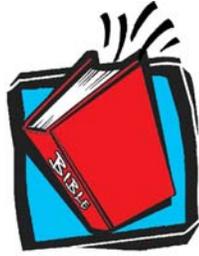
Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Put the greedy grabber in the offering plate. Say:

When we give our offerings to the Lord, it shows our trust in God by giving him the gift of our money. This helps us from becoming so greedy because we give away our money, which can often seem too important. Let's give our offerings to the Lord now.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

“Snatch the Bacon”

Supplies needed: socks, masking tape, colored tokens

In advance, use the masking tape to make a set of parallel lines on the floor (at least eight feet apart) for every 10-16 kids.

Group kids in teams of five to eight. Have two teams line up facing each other on the parallel lines. Set up as many groups of two teams as necessary, depending on the number of children. Number the team members of each team from one to five (or up to eight). Start numbering kids on the opposite end of their lines so that team member one faces team member eight from the opposite team. (See the diagram in the appendix.) Place a sock or some other object in the middle of each set of two teams.

When the leader calls out a number from one to five (or up to eight), the corresponding team member from each side should try to grab the sock and get back to his starting position without being tagged by the opposing team member. If he succeeds, the team with the sock scores a point. If the other team member tags him, the other team scores a point. Points can be tracked by giving colored tokens to the teams each time they score a point.

Learning Point:

If we ever find ourselves stealing, we may also find ourselves running. Many times we try to run away from our own consciences. However, we will eventually get caught, and we will have consequences for it. That is why God wants to protect us from our own greed by telling us not to steal. Instead, God wants us to protect another’s possessions or family members.

Bible Reading:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Read Exodus 20:14-15.

Application:

Supplies needed: video called Kids' Ten Commandments: Episode #4—"Stolen Jewels, Stolen Hearts" by K10C Productions, LLC. ISBN 0-8423-7608-9 (order from http://www.roadtoglory.net/ct_P Rac-0842375627.htm) and at least two candy rewards

The video demonstrates how we should not steal or commit adultery. In the Augustinian numbering system, these are commandments 6 and 7. In the Orthodox numbering system, they are commandments 7 and 8. For a full explanation, see the introduction to this series.

Say to the children:

Please pay close attention to our movie today. If you can answer the question that I ask after the movie, you will get a candy reward!

After the movie, ask the children this question:

Who can tell me one of the times in the movie when someone broke the commandments that we have been talking about today? (Martel, the monkey, stole food and jewels from people in camp; Simeon tried to steal the heart of another man's wife.)



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Think about a time when you protected someone's things from being stolen or damaged by someone else. Let's share those times now. For example, one time I...

Provide a personal example.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- hand-held grabber as shown in the picture below (These are available in novelty stores.)
- dollar bill
- baseball
- small wedding picture
- bag or purse



Power of the Cross:

- greedy grabber used in the Attention Grabber

Learning Game:

- socks
- masking tape
- colored tokens

Application:

- video called *Kids' Ten Commandments: Episode #4—"Stolen Jewels, Stolen Hearts"* by K10C Productions, LLC. ISBN 0-8423-7608-9 (order from http://www.roadtoglory.net/ct_Prac-0842375627.htm)
- at least two candy rewards

Appendix:

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