

Lesson 8

Do not steal

Objective:

To help students understand that wealth is a gift of God, and we have a duty to share it to help others so that we would live with a sense of justice. Also forming a habit for not destroying or misusing the common properties

Introduction (Starter):

In this lesson we shall learn more about our 7th Commandment “you shall not steal”

Encourage them to think beyond physical objects and consider stealing in terms of ideas, time, and emotions. Discuss why stealing is wrong and how it affects both the person stealing and the victim.

A small humorous story from Tolstoy to help the students mind understand the sin of stealing and what impacts when we steal.

There lived in a house a father, mother and their three young children. One day the mother bought some black grapes from a shop. She washed it and kept it in a white plate. It looked very beautiful. She covered it with a lid. The youngest child wished to enjoy the sight of the grapes. He secretly went near the grapes and lifted the lid silently. When he saw the grapes, he wished to touch it and feel it. He touched it secretly.

They were very soft. He then felt like taking it in his hand and smell it. He did so. Then he wished to taste it and so he secretly ate a few which his mother found out. But she didn't say anything at that time. In the evening when the father came home, she told him what had happened. After Dinner the father called all the three children near him and asked: “Did anyone of you steal grapes today?” All replied, “No”. “Okay then, listen; when you eat stolen grapes, if its seed goes inside the stomach the thief will die in three days.” The youngest child's face became pale. He stammered, “But Dad, I had spat out all the seeds through the window”. Everyone else burst out laughing.

Presentation of the topic:

The lesson on the Seventh Commandment emphasizes the sanctity of wealth and the importance of justice in our interactions with others. It teaches us that God is the ultimate source of all life and that wealth is a gift meant for the benefit of all. The commandment prohibits stealing and calls for us to avoid injustice and greed.

Wealth is seen as a gift from God and is meant to be used justly and shared with others. Personal wealth provides security and welfare, while public wealth is common to society and should be respected by all. Justice, as explained by St. Thomas Aquinas and exemplified by Jesus in the parable of the Good Samaritan, should be based on love and fraternity.

The lesson warns against sins such as stealing, exploitation, bribery, and misuse of authority, which violate the rights of others and undermine social justice. It emphasizes the duty to give back stolen goods and make amends for unjust actions. Ultimately, the Seventh Commandment

calls us to be stewards of God's riches, using them for our own good and the good of others while upholding principles of social justice and respect for property rights.

Practical Applications:

- *Do not indulge in copying*
- *Do not steal things or ideas*
- Treat others belongings with care e.g your friends belongings which you have borrowed, public property, church property, etc.

Bible verses: Read and learn

1 Corinthians 6:10

Activity:

- *Role-Playing Scenarios:*
 - Assign each group a specific scenario related to theft or social injustice (e.g., a student caught cheating in an exam, a company polluting a river, a government official accepting bribes).
 - Ask students to role-play the scenario, with some students acting as the perpetrators and others as affected parties or witnesses.
 - After the role-play, facilitate a debriefing session where students reflect on the impact of the actions depicted and discuss ways to prevent similar incidents.

Conclusion:

The Seventh Commandment reminds us that wealth is a gift from God meant to benefit everyone, and stealing in any form is a serious violation of justice and fraternity.