

TEACHING THE ELEVEN COMMANDMENTS
TAMING THE WANT MONSTER

look back

First, **LOOK BACK** at the past week by asking, "How did we do?" Begin with prayer, then check in with one another—sharing honestly, celebrating victories, acknowledging struggles, and graciously offering practical help.

PRAYER - Begin with prayer, inviting Jesus into the conversation.

Then discuss last week's assignment:

- Were you able to practice "fact-check living" with a grandchild or NextGen loved one?
- What did you learn by investigating whether something was actually true?
- Did you become more careful about what you believe, repeat, or share?
- Can you share one experience from last week where you put these things into practice?

look up

Next, **LOOK UP** to God's Word by asking, "What does Jesus want us to know?" If you haven't already, watch this week's video: *"Taming the Want Monster."* Then use the summary, questions, and Scriptures below to draw out the main truths together.

WATCH: Episode 10: Taming the Want Monster

Episode Summary

The Tenth Commandment takes us beneath our actions to the desires of our hearts. Wanting good things is not wrong; God created us with the capacity to desire and enjoy His gifts. Coveting begins when we become consumed with wanting what God has forbidden or what belongs to someone else. That "want monster" feeds discontent, envy, jealousy, resentment, and ultimately other destructive actions.

The antidote is **contentment**: enjoying what God has already given us, expressing gratitude for His goodness, and learning to celebrate His blessings in the lives of others. As grandparents, we can help our NextGens recognize a culture constantly telling them they need "one more" and instead teach them the freedom of knowing when **enough is enough.**

The want monster won't get to first base if we focus on the goodness of God.

HOW TO USE THESE RESOURCES

Whether you're studying on your own or with a group, each guide follows a simple yet powerful rhythm: **Look Back / Look Up / Look Forward.** For group leaders, additional instructions for leading a small group are included at the end of the first workbook in each series.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

God's commandments give us a moral compass for navigating a world where truth and values are increasingly up for grabs. This eleven-part series explores the Ten Commandments and Jesus' "new commandment" to love one another as He has loved us. More than a list of restrictions, God's commands reveal His character, show us our need for Jesus, and guide us in passing on His legacy of love to the next generations.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. How can you distinguish between a healthy desire for something good and sinful coveting?
2. Where are you most tempted to focus on what you lack rather than what God has already given you?
3. How can unchecked desires lead to other destructive attitudes or behaviors?
4. Why can it be difficult to genuinely celebrate when someone else receives something we want?
5. What messages are our NextGen loved ones receiving from us that encourage them to always want more?
6. How can you teach contentment in a way that helps your grandchildren genuinely enjoy God's good gifts?

Episode Notes

1. Wanting is not wrong.

- God created us with the ability to desire and enjoy good things.
- Coveting means intensely desiring what God says we cannot have.

2. The "want monster" is never satisfied.

- Coveting focuses on what we lack instead of enjoying what God has given us.
- Envy, jealousy, resentment, and other sins can grow from unchecked desires.

3. God's command protects us.

- "You shall not covet" flows from God's love for us and for others.
- God's boundaries protect us from desires that can ultimately harm us.

4. Contentment tames the want monster.

- Enjoy what God has already given you and express gratitude for His blessings.
- Learn to celebrate when God blesses someone else.

5. Teach NextGen Loved Ones to recognize "enough."

- Help them recognize messages designed to make them dissatisfied with what they have.
- Model gratitude, contentment, and genuine happiness for the blessings of others.

WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

KEY SCRIPTURE

Exodus 20:17 - "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor." The Tenth Commandment reaches into our hearts. God does not merely tell us not to take what belongs to someone else; He warns us against allowing the desire for it to take hold of us.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

Philippians 4:11–12 - "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want." Contentment does not depend on getting everything we want. It is something we learn as we trust God and recognize that satisfaction is not found in always having more.

look forward

Finally, **LOOK FORWARD** by asking, "What does Jesus want us to do?" Commit to practical steps for living out this week's lesson. Review the assignment, share commitments with the group, pray for one another, and move forward together in faith and hope.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Genesis 2:16–17;
Joshua 7:21; James 4:1–2;
1 Timothy 6:6–10; Luke 12:15

THIS EPISODE'S ASSIGNMENT

This week, practice contentment and gratitude with a grandchild or NextGen loved one. Dialogue about what God has already given you to enjoy, and each name three specific blessings.

Choose someone who has recently received something good and celebrate their blessing together rather than comparing it with what you have.

This week, take note of all the messages telling you that what you have isn't enough. When the "want monster" appears, practice replacing "I wish I had…" with "I'm thankful for…"

PERSONAL GROWTH COMMITMENTS



- What has God laid on my heart?
- What is the Holy Spirit leading me to change?
- What will I do in my own life, in my relationships, and to reach NextGen loved ones?

SHARE WITH THE GROUP



Encourage sharing commitments, prayer needs, and real-life stories. Close in prayer, asking God to deepen your gratitude and help you celebrate the blessings of others.