



# TEACHING THE ELEVEN COMMANDMENTS
# THE STEAL DEAL

## 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 talk with a NextGen loved one about God's design for love and marriage?
- What did you learn from their understanding of what makes a marriage strong and lasting?
- Did you find an opportunity to model or speak positively about faithful, lifelong love?

## 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: *"The Steal Deal."* Then use the summary, questions, and Scriptures below to draw out the main truths together.

**WATCH: Episode 8: The Steal Deal**

### Episode Summary

The Eighth Commandment is remarkably simple: "You shall not steal." Yet our culture often tries to justify taking what belongs to others because of need, unfairness, or circumstances. Scripture gives us a different perspective: God owns everything, everything we possess ultimately comes from Him, and we are stewards of what He places in our care.

Stealing therefore harms our neighbor, dishonors God, and reveals a failure to trust Him. But this commandment also points us toward something positive. Instead of merely teaching our NextGen loved ones not to take, we can model what it means to give generously, live with integrity, and trust God with what we have and what we need.

*Stealing is ultimately a lack of trust in 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 does recognizing God as the owner of everything change the way you think about your possessions?
2. How does living as a steward rather than an owner help us keep the seventh commandment?
3. What are common justifications for taking something that does not belong to us?
4. Other than money, what else might we steal from others?
5. What forms of stealing or dishonesty might your grandkids encounter that are easily rationalized or overlooked?
6. How can you teach your grandchildren the positive side of this commandment by modeling generosity and integrity?

# Episode Notes

**1. God speaks with moral clarity.**

- Stealing means taking what belongs to someone else without permission.
- Circumstances do not make stealing right.

**2. Everything belongs to God.**

- God owns everything, and everything we possess comes from Him.
- We are stewards of what He has entrusted to us.

**3. Stealing hurts others—and dishonors God.**

- Theft is never victimless; it can leave lasting wounds.
- When we steal what God has given someone else, we ultimately steal from Him.

**4. Stealing reveals a lack of trust.**

- Rationalizing theft means taking matters into our own hands.
- Obedience trusts God to provide and make things right.

**5. Turn "do not steal" into generosity.**

- The opposite of taking is giving.
- Teach NextGens integrity by modeling gratitude, generosity, and trust in God.

## WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

### KEY SCRIPTURE

**Psalm 24:1 - "The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."** The Eighth Commandment begins to look different when we recognize that everything ultimately belongs to God. When we steal from others we are really stealing from God.

### SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

**Ephesians 4:28 - "Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need."** Scripture does more than tell us to stop stealing. It gives us the positive alternative: work honestly so that we can generously give to others.

## 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

Exodus 20:15; 1 Chronicles 29:11; 1 Peter 4:10; Proverbs 30:8–9; Luke 16:19–31

### THIS EPISODE'S ASSIGNMENT

This week, dialogue with one of your grandchildren about what God's Word says about stealing and its positive opposite: generosity. Discuss how everything we have comes from God, who entrusts His gifts to us so we can bless others.

Choose something to give together—money, a possession, food, time, or practical help. Decide who could benefit and talk about how gratitude for God's gifts leads us to share freely with others.

During the week, examine your own habits. If you have been cutting corners, taking what isn't yours, or excusing dishonesty, make it right. Model the generosity and integrity you want to teach.

### 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 help you live with integrity and share His gifts generously.