

Honoring God's Design

Trust the Lord to Provide

Main Text: Exodus 20:15

Additional Scriptures: Deuteronomy 8:10-18, Acts 14:16-17, Ephesians 4:28, Ezekiel 18:7, Malachi 3:8-10

Main Idea

The eighth commandment is about more than simply avoiding theft. God calls His people to trust Him as their Provider and to become generous stewards of everything He has entrusted to them. When we recognize that everything we have comes from God, we are freed from greed and empowered to bless others.

Key Truth: We honor God not only by refusing to take what isn't ours, but by trusting His provision and generously sharing what He has given us.

Getting Started

Most people would agree that stealing is wrong, but Scripture takes us deeper than simply avoiding theft. The eighth commandment challenges our hearts by asking two important questions: **Do I trust God to provide?** and **Am I generous with what He has given me?**

Icebreaker:

Describe a time when God unexpectedly provided for one of your needs.

1. Trust the Lord to Provide

Read

- Exodus 20:15
- Acts 14:16-17
- Deuteronomy 8:10-18

Discuss

At its core, stealing often reveals a lack of trust in God's provision. Whether motivated by greed, fear, envy, or impatience, taking what belongs to someone else says, "I need to provide for myself instead of trusting God."

Pastor Todd reminded us that everything we possess ultimately belongs to God. Our abilities, resources, opportunities, and possessions are gifts from Him. Even the ability to work and earn an income is something God provides.

When the Israelites entered the Promised Land, God warned them not to forget where their blessings came from. Prosperity has a way of convincing us that we earned everything ourselves, but Scripture reminds us that God is the One who gives us both our possessions and the ability to obtain them.

Trusting God means believing He will faithfully provide what we truly need, often through the work He has called us to do.

Supporting Scriptures:

- Exodus 20:15
- Acts 14:16-17
- Deuteronomy 8:10-18
- James 1:17

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think fear and greed often tempt people to take what isn't theirs?
- How does remembering that everything belongs to God change your perspective on money and possessions?
- In what areas is God asking you to trust His provision today?
- Why is work itself a gift from God rather than merely an obligation?

2. Practice Generosity

Read

- Ephesians 4:28
- Ezekiel 18:7
- Acts 20:35

Discuss

The eighth commandment isn't fulfilled simply by avoiding theft. Scripture consistently moves us from **not taking** to **freely giving**.

Paul tells believers that instead of stealing, they should work honestly so they "may have something to share with those in need." God's desire is not for His people to become storage units that simply collect blessings, but distribution centers that bless others.

Generosity reflects God's own heart. He has blessed us so that we can become a blessing to others.

As we faithfully steward what God has entrusted to us, we demonstrate that our security is found in Him—not in our possessions.

Supporting Scriptures:

- Ephesians 4:28
- Ezekiel 18:7
- Acts 20:35
- Genesis 12:2

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think generosity is connected to the command not to steal?
- What keeps people from living generously?
- Who has modeled biblical generosity in your life?
- What is one practical way you can meet someone's need this week?

Living It Out

This week, ask yourself these two questions:

- **Am I trusting God to provide for my needs?**
- **Am I using what God has given me to bless others?**

Choose one intentional act of generosity this week. It may be meeting a financial need, providing a meal, giving your time, encouraging someone, or quietly serving without expecting anything in return.

As Pastor Todd challenged us, don't simply avoid stealing. Become known as someone who trusts God completely and lives with open hands.

Memory Verse

Ephesians 4:28 (NIV)

*"Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that