

The 7th Commandment: Stealing

by Rev. Richard Mau

Do not steal. -Exodus 20:15 NIV

- Think about the word steal. What do you think it means?
- Have you ever had something stolen from you?
- If so, did you feel angry? Scared?

Stealing is taking something that is not yours. We hear about stealing from banks and stores. We hear about stealing cars. Some people cheat others out of their money. People are arrested for stealing. It is very sad when people take things from others.

You don't have to say it out loud, but think about a time you took something that didn't belong to you. How did you feel about stealing? Did you feel guilty or did you think it was no big deal?

- Do you think taking a piece of candy or stealing something small like a pen is OK?
- Why do you feel that way?
- How about streaming music or movies you didn't pay? Do you see that as stealing?
- Why do you feel that way?

Stealing is not always about big things. It can be little things, like a pencil. It can be money. It can be someone's gloves or watch. One can even steal someone's idea. Stealing is stealing, no matter what is taken. Stealing is a sin.

The good news is Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins. Because of Jesus, we can be forgiven. Jesus took the punishment we should take for doing bad things. Because of Jesus, we can start each day new and forgiven.

God has given each person all the things they have. That is because God loves us. He does allow people to have different things, but He does not want people to take things away from others just because they want what they do not have. God wants each person to enjoy the things he does have.

- Think about some things you have that you enjoy. What are they?
- How does it feel to know it is God who gives you all good things?

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank You for giving us all we have.

Help us appreciate Your gifts.

Thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to save us from our sins.

Thank You for loving us.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

