

GOSPEL COMMUNITY GUIDE
Life WITH God : The Ten Commandments
Exodus 20:15 | September 21, 2025



CONNECT

What's the earliest memory you have of wanting something that wasn't yours—and what did you do about it?

QUICK UPDATES

Share any upcoming church events and handle housekeeping for the Gospel Community.

REVIEW

Have someone read the passage out loud from the ESV translation or something similar. Reflect on any insights, questions, or parts that stood out from the text or the sermon. Then read the summary below.

The eighth commandment, "You shall not steal" (Exodus 20:15), forbids taking what does not rightfully belong to us, whether possessions, dignity, time, or even from God himself. Scripture shows that stealing flows from a deeper heart problem: our "broken wanters" that grasp for more because we don't trust God's sufficiency. God calls his people not just to avoid theft, but to embody his own generosity. In Christ, we see God's greatest gift freely given to us. Grasping this transforms us from takers into givers, people whose generosity reveals the gospel at work in our lives.

LEARN & LIVE

These questions help us grasp the truth of the passage and consider how to live it out.

- What does Exodus 20:15 forbid, and how does the broader biblical context (Genesis 25, Genesis 3, etc.) deepen our understanding of "stealing"?
- How does the Hebrew word "ganab" expand the meaning of "steal" beyond just taking physical possessions?
- In what ways do stories like Eve in the garden or Jacob stealing Esau's blessing show the deeper roots of stealing in the human heart?
- Read Malachi 3:8–10. What does it mean to "rob God," and how does this connect to stewardship and generosity?
- How do passages like Luke 12:32–34 and 1 Timothy 6:17–18 challenge our attitudes toward possessions and generosity?
- According to Ephesians 4:28, what is the gospel-shaped alternative to stealing?
- How does Acts 2:42–47 describe the early church's practice of generosity, and what does that reveal about the impact of the gospel?
- Why does the commandment against stealing also include things like gossip, plagiarism, or taking advantage of others?
- What does the account of Jesus crucified between two thieves (Luke 23:32–43) teach us about his generosity and grace?
- How does Romans 8:32 assure us of God's provision, and why is that the foundation for moving from takers to givers?

GO DEEPER

These questions invite us to slow down and wrestle with what's going on beneath the surface. Use these to go a little deeper or in your Huddle Groups.

- Where do you feel the strongest "temptation to steal". Not just materially, but in areas like time, attention, or reputation?

- How do you see “broken wanters” in your own life? What things are you tempted to reach for in place of God’s sufficiency?
- What are some socially accepted forms of stealing (time, credit, generosity withheld) that you may have excused in your own life?
- Which example of stealing from the sermon (workplace theft, gossip, hoarding, profiteering, etc.) hits closest to home for you, and why?
- How does your view of money reveal the condition of your heart?
- How might fear of scarcity or insecurity tempt you to hoard instead of give?
- When have you experienced generosity from another believer, and how did it shape your view of God?
- What would it look like for you to take one tangible step from being a taker to being a giver this week?
- How does seeing Jesus on the cross between two thieves speak into your own struggles with greed or taking?
- If generosity is the “perpetual de-deification of money,” as Kent Hughes put it, what specific practice of giving could help you loosen money’s grip on your heart?
- **How is the Spirit inviting you personally to respond and what will you do differently this week?**

PRAY

- Pray about one way God spoke to you tonight through His Word.
- Pray by name for someone in your life who doesn’t yet know Jesus.
- Pray for the needs of those in the group.
- Pray for this ministry area of Redeemer: **THE WOMEN of REDEEMER** | Take time to pray for the ladies, young and old, of our church family.

5 GROUP DISCUSSION RULES

We want to be full of grace as we meet, deepening our relationship with one another and with Christ. These five values help us know our **P.L.A.C.E.** in our GC’s and Huddles.

1. **Pray** - Prayer is a space for confession, struggle, and praise. Keep requests focused on yourself and your immediate family, so we can pray specifically and personally.
2. **Listen** - Be present and attentive. Share with humility, be mindful of time, and remember: silence is okay.
3. **Apply** - Answer honestly. Consider how God’s Word speaks into your life, and what it might look like to respond.
4. **Confess** - Confession and repentance are signs of maturity. We meet one another with grace, not shame.
5. **Encourage** - Practical advice is helpful, but truth is better. Speak the gospel into each other’s hearts and stories.

COMMENTARY EXCERPT:

Eighth commandment. The next principle to govern the Israelites’ relationship with God is respect for the property of others. Any individual found guilty of dispossessing another was to be punished in accordance with the value of what they had stolen and the injured party was to be suitably compensated. While other Ancient Near Eastern cultures sometimes invoked the death penalty for theft, the OT consistently rejects such a position, indicating clearly that God values human life and the marital relationship above property.

Alexander, T. D. (1994). Exodus. In D. A. Carson, R. T. France, J. A. Motyer, & G. J. Wenham (Eds.), *New Bible commentary: 21st century edition* (4th ed., p. 108). Inter-Varsity Press.