

Lesson 1

Do Not Steal

Teacher's One Sheet

BIBLE LESSON: John 12:1-8

MEMORY VERSE: He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so he will have something to share with one who has need. Ephesians 4:28

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

CATECHISM:

The Seventh Commandment: Thou shalt not steal.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not rob our neighbor of his money or property, nor bring them into our possession by unfair dealing or fraud, but help him to improve and protect his property and living.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will know:

- God does not want us to take other people's possessions.
- God is our Provider and gives us what we need.

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets

LESSON OVERVIEW: The Bible lesson is the story of Mary washing Jesus' feet with an expensive perfume which was her way of showing her love and honor for Him. To relate this to the Seventh Commandment the lesson looks at the response of Judas to this act. Judas was thinking about what he could gain/steal from the money the perfume could have earned if sold and given to Jesus and his followers to care for those in need as he was the "treasurer" for the group. Even though Judas did not outwardly steal anything tangible here, his thought life made him guilty of breaking this Commandment. (this may be a new idea to students)

- POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: What does it mean to steal? Who showed love and honor to Jesus? How did Mary do this? What did Judas say about what she did? What did Judas think? What do we learn about God? What does it mean to steal? (I repeat the question to see that students grasp the idea of sin in our thought life) (I don't know what the activities are but some discussion about what students might steal)

ACTIVITY 1: Who Did What? Jesus (2, 6), Mary (1, 4, 8), Judas (3, 5, 7). Student's will have various responses for the questions.

ACTIVITY 2: "He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need. Eph. 4:28. And drawing activity.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

- ☒ Think back on your own life and your relationship to possessions and money.
- ☒ Ask the Holy Spirit to give you insight(s) that will help the children as you study.

Prepare Materials

- ☒ Activity sheets
- ☒ Lessons
- ☒ Have memory verse(s) written on the board

Hymns and Songs

FILL IN HERE

Prayer Preparation

- Pray for the Holy Spirit to continue to work in each child's heart.
- Pray for your lesson preparation so you can make the lesson real to your students.
- Pray that you may show the love of Christ to your class.

Bible Background

John 12:1-8 Do Not Steal

Feasts like this one were common on those days. Life was hard with much toil and labor and gathering for a feast was a welcome time for celebration, a “break” from the daily routine.

This feast was especially joyful because it was a celebration of the raising of Lazarus a few days earlier. He was now with his family and friends again at the table, and was probably still “dazed” or amazed at where he was and why. He must have looked at Jesus with an even greater joy and gratitude than before.

This gathering was also dangerous for Jesus. After raising Lazarus a few days before, John says that “from that day on they planned together to kill Him. Therefore Jesus no longer *continued* to walk publicly among the Jews, but went away from there to the region near the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim; and there He stayed with the disciples” (Jn 11:53-54). For the feast there was a large crowd around the house, and the chief priests were planning to kill Lazarus because so many people were believing in Jesus (12:9-11).

Part of that deadly and evil plan was already present in the house. This event presents a sharp contrast between Mary who delights to give her best to Jesus, and Judas who delights to take her gift for himself.

Judas was already a thief as John notes (12:6) so he is acting in character. In this case he tried to “steal the show” from Mary and Jesus. It seems that Mary's great display of praise meant nothing to him (what did Jesus really mean to him now and later?). His greed is especially sinful in the very presence of holiness.

And that is what stealing is. Every commandment is designed to protect the holiness of God among His people by “defining” what a righteous life should look like. Breaking any commandment is crossing into the darkness of sin and leaves a dark stain of sin on God's people. Stealing from another person violates the sanctity of life and property that God has provided for another person.

Stealing takes more than a person's money or property. We can steal a person's name or ruin his reputation with rumors and false accusations. We can even steal a person's "glory" by taking credit for good things he has said or done. Judas "stole" Mary's praise by demeaning her gift, and he stole the "glory" that belonged to Jesus. Stealing is taking for ourselves what God has given to someone else, and like all sin is really against God.

What Judas said about selling the perfume and giving the money to the poor was really a "mask" to hide his real intentions. He was a hypocrite, a person who puts on a false front to appear virtuous or religious. John and the others, and Jesus, already knew Judas was a thief and he was doing what thieves do (Jn 12:6).

Jesus highly values Mary's gift. Even with the Cross now so close, Jesus was not indifferent to Mary's sacrifice of love to Him, and even ties it to His own coming burial (12:7).

Jesus' comment about the poor (v.8) should not be used as an excuse to not care for them. Withholding our "gifts" from the poor is in itself a form of stealing, keeping for ourselves what God has given us to share with others. Caring for the poor and orphans and widows was really a hallmark of the early church (Acts 6:1-6; Jam 1:27).

Jesus' words also reveal a universal truth about man's sin. Poverty is one of the unfortunate results of our sinful human nature, of man preying upon man and often discarding him. Judas was right about the proper use of the money, but he himself had no intention of using it for the poor, but in fact was stealing it from those who needed it. Judas would end his life tragically, unable to deal with the guilt of his greed (Mt 27:5). But there was also another thief who met Jesus on the cross who with godly sorrow found mercy and forgiveness in the last moments of his life.

Learn the New Words

It is okay to explain the new words in the beginning or as you encounter them.

stealing: taking something that belongs to somebody else. It could be money or toys. Sometimes in school they look at someone else's paper and find the answer to a test question. No matter what a person takes, it's stealing if it belongs to someone else.

Judas: One of Jesus's disciples. His job was to take care of the disciples' money. He took some of the disciples' money and kept it for himself.

Martha: one of Jesus's friends who loved Him. She lived in Bethany with her sister, Mary, and her brother, Lazarus. Jesus visited them often.

Mary: Mary was Martha's sister. She loved Jesus very much and listened when He talked about His Father.

Lazarus: Mary and Martha's brother, and Jesus' friend. All three loved Jesus and trusted Him as their Savior. Jesus loved them and liked to go to their house.

possessions: things that belong to a person.

expensive perfume: This was something used to make things smell beautiful. It could cost a lot of money. Just a little perfume could cost quite a lot of money. (You may want to show a small bottle of perfume.)

honest: We are honest when we tell the truth, don't take other people's things, and help other people keep their own things. God wants us to be honest.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive.

Open the class with prayer, praying for each child by name, if you like.

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read it clearly, “He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands

what is good, so he will have something to share with one who has need. *Ephesians 4:28.*” Be sure to read it together aloud. Remind the children you’ll repeat the verse again at the end.

Review the Recent Lessons

We have finished three lessons about the Sixth Commandment, See if the students can remember the Sixth Commandment, before we begin to focus on the Seventh Commandment, “Thou shalt not steal.”.

TEACHING TODAY’S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

Most people have things that belong to them. We should use our belongings well. We should get our belongings in good ways, like as a gift or by buying them with money we earned. We are to respect the rights and property of others and not take what belongs to them for ourselves.

Read the Lesson

Read the Lesson

Teacher read the opening paragraph.

SAY: Stealing means taking something that doesn’t belong to you. People don’t like it when someone takes what belongs to them. Stealing is always bad. It is not bad to want something—wishing isn’t a sin. But planning to take something that isn’t yours is wrong. Stealing, like other sins, begins in the heart. Coveting and lusting for things can lead to stealing (taking things by force or trickery).

ASK:

- Where do we learn that God tells us not to steal? (The Ten Commandments)
- Is it stealing if we take something small, like one piece of candy? (Yes)

Help the students find John 12:1-8. Read these verses or ask a volunteer to read them. Move to the next 2 paragraphs telling the story

about Judas and about Mary’s anointing of Jesus’s feet. Emphasize the following points:

- Jesus loved to visit the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus in near the city of Bethany.
- Judas was a thief, even though he was one of Jesus’s disciples.
- Judas had a selfish heart. He liked money too much and wanted to steal it.
- Judas wanted money that belonged to all the disciples and instead of guarding it and keeping it safe, he snuck money out of the box they kept it in and kept it for himself.
- Judas liked money too much.
- Mary loved Jesus because He had forgiven her sin. Jesus was her Savior. She showed her love by washing Jesus’ feet with expensive perfume and wiping them with her hair.
- Judas said Mary was wasting money on Jesus, because he really wanted to take that money for himself.
- Jesus knew what Judas was thinking. He knew Judas wanted to take the money.
- Jesus was pleased with Mary. He told Judas that Mary had done a good thing.
- Jesus was sad about Judas’ sin. Jesus wanted Judas to be sorry for his sin and

ask God to forgive him. But Judas wasn't sorry. He didn't ask Jesus to forgive him.

according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." Tell them we do not need to steal because God will give us what we need. Like Jesus, we can trust God, our Father.

Remind the students of the challenge memory verse, *Philippians 4:19* and say it together, "And my God will supply all your needs

Repeat the Memory Verse

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

The activity worksheets for this section are printed in the student books.

Who Did What?

Activity 1

Fill in the blank activity and draw lines connecting the person to their actions and questions for the students to answer

Activity 2

Find the missing words for the memory verse and write them in the blanks and drawing activity.

Activity 1
WHO DID WHAT?

What are the names of the three people in our lesson?
Write their names on the lines below. Draw a line to match each character with his or her actions.

Jesus _____
 Mary _____
 Judas _____

- Used expensive perfume to wash Jesus' feet.
- Was in a house having supper with His friends.
- Was a disciple of Jesus.
- Loved Jesus very much.
- Did not care about poor people.
- Had a friend named Mary.
- Had stolen money from the money box.
- Honored and worshiped Jesus.

Have you ever stolen from someone?
Have you ever thought about stealing something?
What should you do if that happens to you?

Confess your sin. Ask God to forgive you for your sinful thoughts and actions.

Activity 2

Find the missing words for the memory verse and write them in the blanks below.

He who _____ steals _____ must _____ steal _____ no longer;

but rather he must _____ labor _____, performing with his own _____

_____ hands _____ what is _____ good _____, so that he will have

something to _____ share _____ with one who has _____ need _____.

Ephesians 4:28

Draw a picture from the story about Jesus, Mary, and Judas. Tell others about your drawing.

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CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

The goal in the following weeks will be for students to memorize the Bible verse and catechism before the next class session. This will be their weekly assignment and will help students to gain more from their lessons in class each week. Some students may not be used to memorizing, but it is important to encourage them to hide God's Word in their hearts. The creative ideas for teaching the memory verses will then serve as a review for most students but will also help others to learn the verses. The teacher should also memorize the Bible verses

and catechism to serve as a model for the students. You may want to give a reward at the end of the quarter to those who have memorized all the memory verses, enrichment verses, and catechism.

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.