

# Lesson 7

## Do Not Steal

Print out your worksheet. Turn the number, 8, sideways and change it into a pair of handcuffs. Draw a key off to the side. Write down the commandment in the blank space.



## Bible Lesson

Today's lesson is about the 8<sup>th</sup> commandment, which states, "Do not steal." God gave us this commandment so that we could live in peace and harmony with one another. God wants to protect those who are weak and helpless, and he does not want anyone to take advantage of anyone else. We are never to claim for ourselves that which belongs to someone else. In fact, as Christians, we never need to steal because God has promised to take care of us. Let's look at [Philippians 4:19](#).

*<sup>19</sup> And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.*

Does God say He will only take care of *some* of our needs? No! He promises to meet all of our needs. Is God stingy with what He gives us and gives only barely enough? No! He gives according to the riches of His glory! God has everything, more than we can imagine. He created us and loves us, and will provide for us.

Imagine our parents. When you were born, did your parents say, "Ok, little baby. I will give you only something to drink, but everything else, your food, clothes, toys, shelter ...you're on your own. Good luck." Of course not! Even our earthly parents try to take care of all of our needs and bless us with more than what we need. How much more will our perfect Heavenly Father take care of us?! When we steal, you are really saying to God that you do not trust Him to take care of you. That hurts God's heart when you do not believe what He says.

Let's turn to [Matthew 6:19-21](#).

*<sup>19</sup> "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

We do not need to be worried about things we buy, like toys, nice things, and food, because everything here on earth can be destroyed or stolen. It's not that God doesn't want us to have these things, he just wants us to trust Him. However, if we do things for Jesus, we will have reward in Heaven that will last forever. No one can take them away.

Do you know the phrase, "Finders keepers, losers weepers?" Sometimes it's easy to justify stealing. As you read these examples, think to yourself why this is considered stealing. Remember, the definition of stealing is **taking for yourself anything that belongs to somebody else**.

1. The cashier at the grocery store gave you too much change and it is not worth your time to return it.
2. At school, you put a small toy or token in your pocket thinking no one will know it's missing.
3. You take a pen from the library and use it at home.
4. Your mom gives you \$10 to go see a movie with your friend. You spent \$8 on the ticket and keep the other \$2.
5. Your Dad orders one "all you can eat," deal for lunch and you eat off of his plate.
6. You copy your friend's homework.
7. You copy a CD of your favorite music or video game.
8. You bought some things from the store. You look at the receipt and realize the cashier forgot to charge you for one of the things. You decide to keep it anyway.
9. You're at the grocery store and you want to buy some grapes but you don't know if they are sweet. You take one to try before you decide whether or not to buy them.
10. Your friend has chips on his plate. You finished yours. He is not paying attention and you take one off of his plate and put it in your mouth.

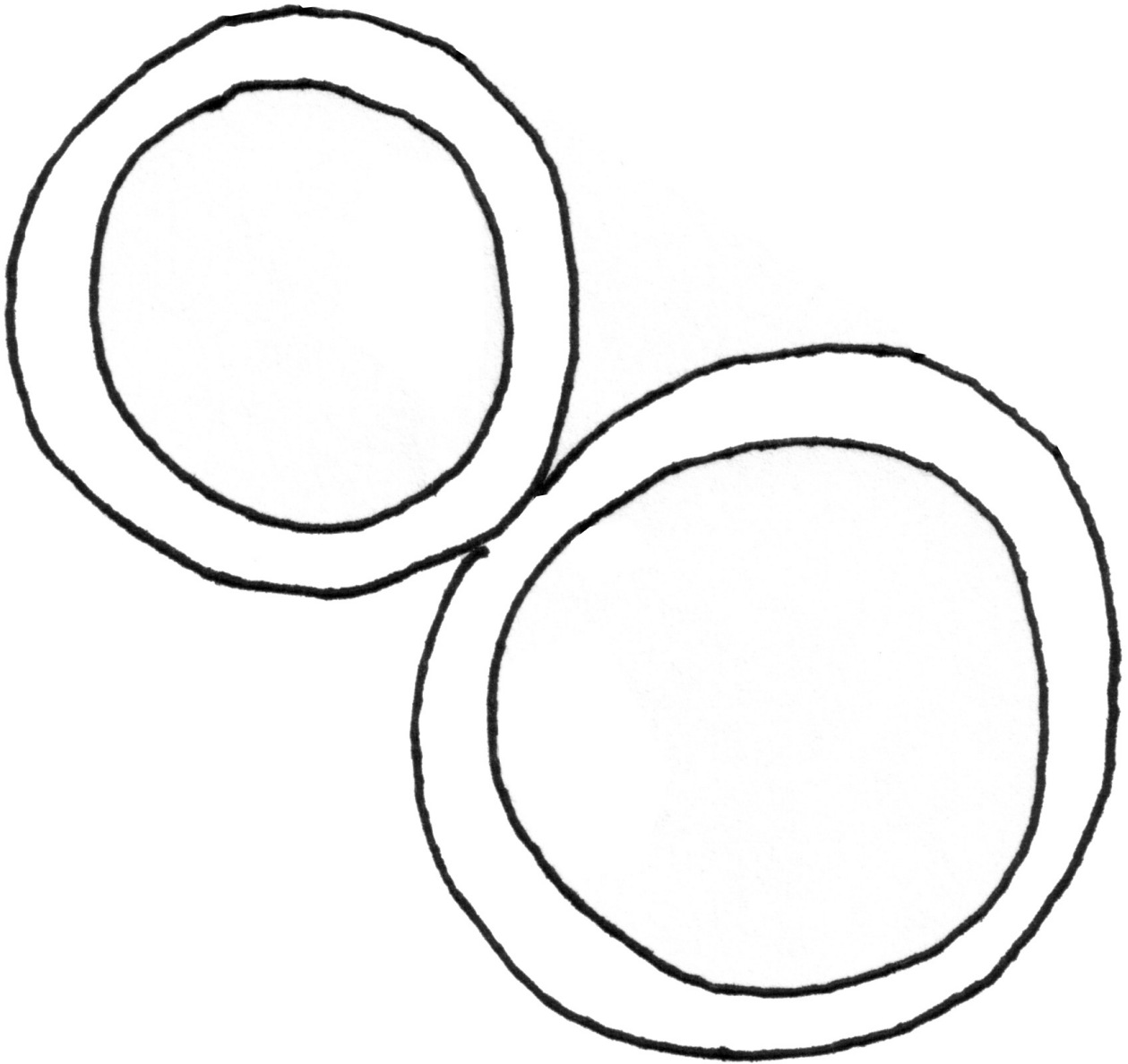
Do you have any examples of what can be stealing?

## *Conclusion*

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. How does the 8<sup>th</sup> commandment, "Do not steal," teach us about God's love?
2. What does stealing reveal about our heart?
3. If you are tempted to steal and do something that is not honest, what should you do instead?

*Answers: 1.) We don't need to steal because God promised to take care of all of our needs. 2.) We don't believe God can take care of us. 3.) Choose to trust God and pray to Him to take care of everything you need.*



**Commandment 8:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_