



TEN: Don't Steal | June 8, 2016

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

Stealing is generally a result of not having. God seems to see it as a result of not having trust in him to provide. Instead of stealing, try giving and see what happens to your perspective on stuff.

Key Verse

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NLT)

Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.

Discussion

Stealing is an odd thing. Most everyone has taken something. Usually it's because we felt we deserved it, somebody else wouldn't miss it because they had enough, or because we felt we needed it. If we look back on the things we have taken, we can probably see that it was not crucial to our lives or well being

1. Can you remember something you took and why you took it? What would you say was the feeling in your heart?
2. Can you think of a time when someone took something from you? How did it make you feel?

Stealing and taking from others is a result of a scarcity mentality. Regularly thinking in this way causes us to shift from abundance to scarcity. To combat scarcity thinking, God gives us a story in 2 Corinthians 9 about a farmer who gives freely...a farmer who lives with great expectation rather than fear. The opposite of stealing is giving.

3. Can you think of a time when you gave something away and how it made you feel?
4. In what ways do you have abundance?

The story of two farmers shows one preparing for a lack of yield and one who was preparing for rain. With the commandment to not steal, God is asking us to plant our crops with abundance—to live as if we can't lose. God wants us to live as if he is always about to make it rain!

5. What things would you change about your attitude, your perception of abundance, your habits, etc. as a result of this commandment?

What's Next?

If we truly believe that giving is the opposite of stealing, then every time you feel the presence of scarcity coming into your mind and heart, choose to give something away. This week, go home and see what extra stuff you have and give something away. This habit of seeing your abundance and being willing to give freely of it, will combat the feelings of needing to take.