

WORDS TO LIVE BY

A FRESH LOOK AT THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

MAR 9, 2025

The Purpose of Wealth

We are looking at the eighth word or command: You shall not steal. Like the other commands, this word emphasizes its positive force when seen in all the Scriptures. Not-taking must become not-keeping. When we refrain from taking what is not ours and to give what we have received, we make manifest the kingdom of God here and now.

Read Exodus 20:15.

- What, if any, forms of stealing are you most likely to excuse?
- According to the Bible, who is the true owner of all things (Psalm 24:1)? How should this truth impact our understanding of this command? (see 1 Timothy 6:7)
- How does Jesus' teaching about earthly possessions address our attitude toward material things (Matthew 6:19-21)?
- How is our stewardship of our wealth or material possessions an indicator of our spirituality (Luke 16:10-12)
- Have you experienced the blessing Jesus speaks about here (Acts 20:35)?
- What is the positive force of this command as seen in the New Testament (Ephesians 4:28; 1 Timothy 6:18-19)?
- What is the greater motivation for a truly generous life (2 Corinthians 8:9)?
- What act of generosity is the Spirit prompting you toward today?

Praying together

Holy Spirit, help me reflect the generosity of Jesus in using my wealth and possessions.