

LG | Leader

[Exodus 20:15]

WARM-UP (10 mins)

It is likely that everyone present had a very busy day, maybe even a trying day. Let's take a moment to still our minds and go to the Lord in prayer.

- Without looking, what are the first 7 commandments?
- What did you learn about the commandment, "you shall not steal"?

ILLUMINATE (40 mins)

Open your Bibles to the primary text.

1. The 8th commandment is "you shall not steal." What does that statement presuppose?

The 8th commandment assumes that there is such thing as personal property. It also assumes that if there is such thing as personal property there is also the need for work to acquire such personal property.

2. How would you re-phrase this commandment in the positive? How would you communicate this commandment to your kids?

Be generous. Be a giver.

3. In an effort to see this commandment within our cultural context, what is socialism?

Definition: a social and economic doctrine that calls for public rather than private ownership or control of property and natural resources

-a system of society or group living in which there is *no private property*

-a system or condition of society in which the *means of production are owned and controlled by the state*

4. How does this commandment reject the philosophy of socialism? What is the difference between socialism and say the Southern Baptist Convention's cooperative program that we collectively support?

"Since the 8th commandment presupposes private ownership of property, it rejects systems of economics that deny that principle." - John Frame. A pooling of resources towards a cooperative does not violate this commandment because the resources given (private property) are given freely and not controlled and distributed by the state.

5. What evidence is there today of rampant thievery? How can we too be participants of stealing?
Surveillance cameras, Identity theft protection, bank vaults, protections on the dollar bill, etc. We can easily fall into stealing by not honoring God with our money, by using poor time management at our place of employment, by not being truthful in our taxes, etc.
6. Like our other commandments, what is our spiritual remedy for breaking the 8th commandment?
Confession and Repentance.
7. Quiz Question: What is the primary difference between the first four commandment and the last six?
The first four commandments are “vertical.” They deal with our relationship with God. The last six commandments are “horizontal” as they deal with our relationship with others.

PRAY

Use this time to pray specifically. Pray for the needs of others; locally and abroad.