

3.8 Be Honest and Upright With Others

Topic: Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

Subtopic: 3G. Integrity, Honesty, and Justice 4F. Peace in the Home, School, Church and Community

Class: Class III (3rd Grade)

Objectives:

Knowledge: Students will define stealing as taking something without the consent of its owner.

Attitude: Students will admit that stealing from another is not right and it leads to conflict.

Materials Needed:

Memory Verse Exercise Book
Exercise Book

Scripture:

References: Genesis 31:1-42; Numbers 32:23

Teacher's Notes

Memory Verse: "Do not steal." Exodus 20:15

TEACHER ACTIVITIES

Introduction:

1. How do you feel when someone takes something of yours and doesn't ask you for it?

Bible Story:

2. What does God teach us about stealing? Tell the story of Rachel from Genesis 31:1-42; Nu 32:23

Suggested Discussion Questions

3. When Jacob decided to take his wives, children, and flocks and return to his homeland, what did Rachel think she needed to take with her?
4. How did she ask her family if she could take them?
5. Why did she not do the right thing when her father came and searched for them?
6. Does God approve of stealing?
7. Why is it impossible to take something and never be found out?

Application:

8. When you are tempted to take something that doesn't belong to you, what should you do?

Evaluation:

9. If you are in possession of something now that doesn't belong to you, how will you make it right?

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Introduction:

1. Let students respond. Sad, angry, betrayed

Bible Story:

2. God says your sin will find you out.

Possible Answers to Questions:

3. The household gods of her family
4. She did not ask if she could take them.
5. It would have been better if she had admitted that she had taken them. Perhaps he would have let her keep them.
6. God says in the Ten Commandments "Do not steal." Exodus 20:15
7. God always knows when we take something that doesn't belong to us. Our conscience also reminds us.

Application:

8. We should not take it unless we ask permission from the owner.

Evaluation:

9. Let students make a plan for returning the item or admitting to the one they took it from and letting them know they are sorry. Remember to confess to God and ask forgiveness from Him also.

Extension Activities

1. Have students write the new memory verse in their Memory Verse Exercise Book: “Do not steal.” Exodus 20:15
2. In their other Exercise Book, have the students write at the top: BE HONEST. Underneath write, Honesty Gains You Respect. Underneath that write, Taking something from another without his permission is stealing. God knows.
3. Discussion Questions. As you read each statement, have students decide if the statement describes stealing. Take a moment to discuss why. A) Taking something from someone without his permission is not stealing unless you get caught. (It is stealing even if you don’t get caught.) B) If you see money on the ground, picking it up and putting it in your pocket is not stealing. (It is stealing. An effort should be made to locate the owner.) C) You are taking a test and you don’t know an answer so you look at your neighbor’s and write what he wrote on your paper. (You are stealing an answer.) D) You want to take an offering for Sunday School so you choose to take ears of corn that are not good. (It is stealing from God. We should bring our best to God.) E) Cutting down all the trees for firewood, without planting new trees, is stealing. (It is stealing resources from future generations. It is important to replace any trees we cut down to protect resources for the next generation.) Use other suggestions using situations your class may have had to address because of someone stealing.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS

Highlights for the Bible Story

1. Jacob had traveled a long way from his home. He went back to the home of his mother where he hoped he would find a wife.
2. He found some of his mother’s family and met a lady he wanted for his wife.
3. The arrangement was that he would work for her father, Laban, for seven years and then he could have Rachel for his wife. In the end Laban cheated and made him take his older daughter, Leah, for his wife and then he promised Rachel if worked another seven years.
4. Jacob worked fourteen years and more and his father-in-law’s flocks grew steadily.
5. One day, Jacob thought it was time to take his wives and go back to his own family.
6. As they were packing up their things for the long journey, Rachel stole the household gods from her father. She didn’t ask him for them. She just took them and told no one, not even Jacob.
7. They set out without saying good bye to the father or the rest of the family.
8. Laban was very unhappy when he discovered they had left without saying good-bye. Besides that, he noticed that his household gods were missing. So he set out to follow them.
9. It took seven days before he overtook them. He had a long talk with Jacob and then he accused him of taking the household gods.
10. Jacob told Laban he could search everything and if he found those household gods, Jacob would punish the person.
11. Laban came up with nothing. In fact, Rachel hid the household gods in her saddlebags and sat on it. When Laban came in to search, she refused to stand.
12. Rachel had stolen the household gods and even though Laban didn’t find them when he searched for them, Rachel knew she had done wrong. If Rachel had not done wrong, she would not have refused to stand so even her saddlebag could be searched. Sometimes we

think we can get by with taking something that belongs to someone else but God knows. Many times God keeps reminding you of that wrong. We call that your conscience that comes and reminds you of what you have done wrong.

13. When stealing occurs in our families, schools, communities, it becomes a basis for conflict. It destroys the ability to live in harmony and trust.
14. Refraining from stealing from one another helps us live in harmony with our families and community.
15. God put it in the Ten Commandments: "Do not steal." Exodus 20:15

Peace Connections

Many conflicts occur because someone has stolen from another. Accusations are made. Anger arises and peace is gone. When you are honest, people discover that they can trust you. They know your word is true. You can be a better peacemaker when others trust you.

Key Points

When someone takes something that doesn't belong to him without permission from the owner, that is stealing. Even when you think you will not be discovered, God sees what you have done. He will remind you of this sin. You will feel uncomfortable. God says in the Ten Commandments that we are not to steal. Stealing brings about conflict and takes away peaceful relations.

Teacher Evaluation

What is my attitude about stealing? Have I taken something from another without their permission? If so, how am I going to make it right with that person(s). If someone steals from me, how do I feel? How should I address the issue if someone steals from me? Am I a good example of not stealing for the students?