

WEEK NINE

## RULE 8: DO NOT STEAL

### BIG IDEA

*Do not steal. God has promised to always care for us and wants us to*

# BE GIVERS NOT TAKERS

A LESSON FROM ACHAN

#### PREP: *(Kids can help!)*

- Find a sheet or blanket and rope or chairs (to make a tent/hut).
- Collect a pillow for each child.

#### WHAT GOES IN THE BOX?

- The first 8 commandment cards.
- 50c per child in two 20c pieces and one 10c piece.



#### INTRO

- Begin Faith Box today by giving each child a task. Tell them that when they have finished you will give each 50 cents payment for their work. (You could assign the task earlier in the day or even the previous day if you wish.)
- First of all let's put out the commandment cards and then I will pay you.

#### OUT OF THE BOX

- Take out the commandment cards for the first 7 commands and get the children to put them in the correct order.

Remember the stories that we have looked at so far for each one.

- Now bring out the 8th card.

#### What do you think it means?

Stealing is taking (or keeping) something that is not your own.

- Now give each child payment for their job. But give only 40 cents instead of the promised 50 cents.
- **How did you feel about me keeping back a bit of the money?**
- **Was that honest of me?**

We are going to read about someone who kept back what he thought was just a small amount, but it was stealing because it wasn't his to take, and God was extremely displeased with him.

At that time The Israelites lived in tents...



- Together build a tent from a blanket draped over chair or a piece of rope tied to 2 chairs.
- Everyone sit inside the tent while you listen to the reading.

## READ

While the children of Israel were travelling through the wilderness they lived together as families in tents instead of houses. All the families of one tribe camped together, and when they marched, they rolled up their tents and carried them.

We are reading today about a man named Achan who lived in a tent with his family with all the other tribes. However Achan didn't believe God's way was best. He disobeyed His commands and thought that God wouldn't know. But the Bible says "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper." When we sin, we need to confess it to God. (This means we should agree with God that we have not obeyed and that we have done wrong, and ask for forgiveness.) So listen to what happened.

“ After Moses died, Joshua became the leader of the Israelites. It was Joshua that led the people over the Jordan River and into the Promised Land. They had to fight many battles to get their land back from the Canaanites. The first battle they fought was the Battle of Jericho. Remember? They marched around the city seven times, blew the trumpets and all the walls came tumbling down!

When the walls of Jericho came down, the Lord had told the Israelites that they were not to take anything from the city. No one did. All the soldiers collected up the gold and silver and bronze and other riches from amongst the rubble and took them to the temple. That is, all the soldiers except...Achan. He did a bad thing. He saw a lovely robe sitting there. His clothes weren't made from such fine fabric. So he took it. He found some silver and gold. He thought the money might come in handy. So he took it too. However after he got back to the camp, he didn't know what to do with all these things. There was no place to spend the money. There was nothing to buy and he couldn't wear the robe because his friends would know it wasn't his. He wasn't sure what to do with it. There was nothing he could do with it.

So he buried it beneath his tent in a deep hole. He thought he was safe, no one knew he had stolen anything.

But there was someone that did know. God knew. God sees all and knows all and we can't hide what we have done from him. After that the Israelites lost a battle and God told Joshua that someone had disobeyed the Lord's instructions not to take anything from the city and that it was Achan. Then Joshua punished Achan and all his family for stealing.



*Adapted from Joshua 6-8*



## WEEK NINE

### FAMILY TALK TIME

- Give the children each the 10 cents you owe them. Say 'sorry' for stealing what they had worked for.

#### Questions:

- **What are people who steal called?**
- **Robbing a bank and shoplifting are not the only ways to steal.**
- **Can you think of other ways people steal things?**

Copying answers at school.

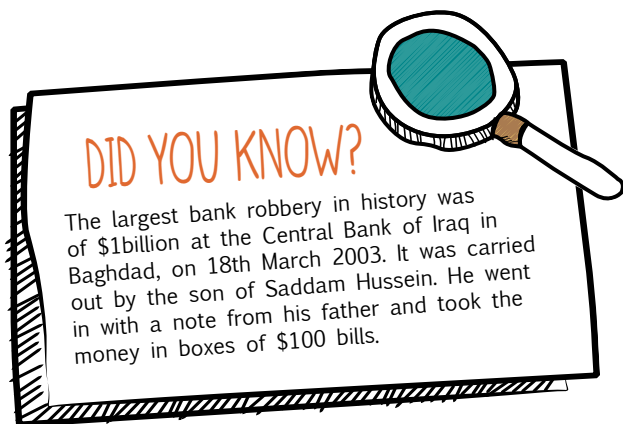
Cheating in a game (stealing another's chance to win).

Taking money from your mum's purse without asking.

Keeping the change when you are given too much.

Keeping something you found.

Do you know the story of Zacchaeus? He was the tax collector everyone hated because he got rich through taking extra money from people. When he met Jesus, Zacchaeus realised how dark his heart was and asked Jesus to forgive him. Then he gave half of what he owned to the poor and he paid back all the people he had cheated four times as much as he had taken in the first place.



- **What should we do if we have taken something that doesn't belong to us?**
- **What are the excuses people sometimes use to not give back things they have taken?**

*(Finders, keepers, They made the mistake, I deserve this, Everyone is doing it, No one will notice.)*

### GAME

#### Hide the Elephant!

- Give everyone a pillow and tell them to pretend the pillows are elephants. Get each child to name their elephant.
- Now while a parent counts to 25, they must each hide their 'elephant' in the room. Then the parents try to find them. Show how easy it is to find the 'elephants'.

You can try to hide an elephant, but elephants are difficult to hide.

It is like sin... Sin is so big in God's eyes, that we cannot hide it. No sin is hidden from God. When we sin, it sticks out all over the place! We cannot hide from God.

If we have stolen something, we need to say sorry and make it right again. Then God will bless us and take away our guilt.

God has given us gifts and creativity to use and he wants us to use those gifts to provide for ourselves and others too. He wants us to be givers not takers.

#### Questions

- **Proverbs 28:13 says, ' People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy.'** (NLT)
- **What does 'prosper' mean?**
- **What does covering your sins mean?**

Even if people seem to get away with stealing and are not found out, still God knows and people's sins will

“ LYING AND STEALING ARE NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOURS.”

- ARABIAN PROVERB -

eventually be revealed. A clean conscience is a gift from God. He has promised to wash our hearts clean when we ask him to forgive us and to fill us with his kindness towards others.

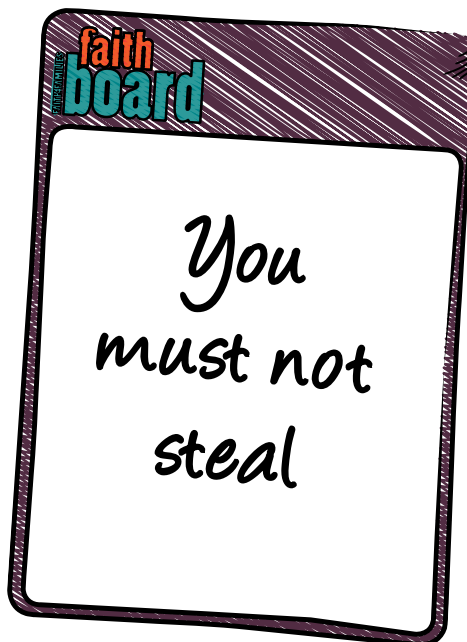
- Tell two things you have learnt from our Faith Box time today.

PRAY

- Dear Lord, You give us everything we need and more. You give us food, clothes, and a family. You give us friends, a church, and love. Please help us to never dishonour you by stealing. Help us to have open hands, not hands that sneak and take things. Help us to be givers not takers.

LIVE

This week, think of a way you as a family can be givers. What can you give to someone else? Perhaps some baking for a neighbour or a loving visit to a relative.



OTHER IDEAS

- Take time to explore more of the opposite of stealing – giving. How can we give more to others? Jesus said, “Give and it will be given to you pressed down, shaken together and running over.” Pour some sugar or rice into a beaker. Shake it down then fill it up until it tumbles over the edge. Talk together about what Jesus meant by this statement.
- Play “Steal the Bandana” – have each child place a bandana hanging out of their pocket. On “go” they run around and try to pull out the others’ bandanas. If a child loses their bandana they have to sit on the same spot – but can still grab a bandana if they can reach. After the game, talk about how when we steal, there are consequences for those we steal from –they miss out on part of the game.

CHECK OUT WHAT YOU NEED FOR NEXT WEEK...

