

Children's Lesson Twelve

What's Mine is not Yours

PURPOSE

The media, T.V., magazines, movies, video games all play to children's desire to have things and to be popular. Sometimes if a child doesn't have fashionable clothes or the latest video games, they are seen as losers and not cool. Advertisers rely on these feelings of inadequacy to get children to buy their products. The children's market is now one of the fastest growing markets, with companies appealing to the whims and desires of children as young as five through the teen years. Desires and wants are okay, it is when the children begin to want what others have that troubles begin. The children need to be aware that to want only what someone else has is to covet and to covet is wrong.



OBJECTIVE

The children will:

- Be introduced to the tenth commandment.
- Review all of the commandments they have learned so far.
- Be introduced to the difference between wanting an object and coveting an object.
- Examine their own lives and decide what things and people for which they are thankful.

SCRIPTURE

- Exodus 19: 17
- I Kings 21: 1-28

WHAT YOU NEED

- Commandment Crest and tenth badge
- Glue
- Unlined 3"x5" note cards
- Markers or crayons
- Construction paper, 11"x14"
- Colored tissue paper cut in strips of 2"x10" or rolled crepe paper
- Brown grocery sack for each child
- Copy of tenth commandment to place on bulletin board
- A copy of the story for each child
- Stapler
- String or yarn
- Crepe paper or colored tissue paper

SETTING THE SCENE

1. **Commandment Crest.** The students need to locate their Commandment Crests and glue the final commandment on their crests.

2. **Memory game.** The children can review the previous commandments by playing a memory game. On unlined index cards write the different numbers and then on other unlined index cards write the corresponding commandment. For example, on one card you would write the number "1" and on another card you would write the corresponding commandment, "You shall have no other gods before me." On one card write the number "2" and on another card write the corresponding commandment, "You shall not make for yourself an idol." Do this until all of the commandments to be reviewed have been written out. Shuffle the cards and then lay them down with the blank side up. The children will take turns turning one card over and then trying to match it with the corresponding number or commandment. If the child did not make a match the cards need to be turned back over and the next child will try to make a match. Play the game until all the matches have been made. The ideal number for this game would be two or three children per game. Several packs of index cards can be made so several groups can review the commandments at the same time.

TRANSITION

Place a copy of the ninth commandment on the bulletin board and have the students repeat it after you. Ask **What does covet mean?** ("Covet" means to want or desire something that belongs to someone else; not just something like what someone has, but the actual object that the other person has.)

Let's see what The Commandment Kids have to say about this last commandment.

STORY

Read the story or distribute copies and let the children read the story.

QUESTIONS

1. **Have you ever wanted something that belonged to someone else?**
2. **Why is coveting wrong? What does it do to you on the inside?** (Coveting makes you think you can't be happy with what you have. It makes you feel unhappy, and coveting something or someone consumes all your thoughts and feelings, so you no longer have time for anything or anyone else.)
3. **What can you do when you realize you may be coveting something?** (Begin to think about your blessings and the things you have. To be thankful for what you have.)

ACTIVITIES

1. **Contentment Carpet.** For the younger children, this activity will help them see the things they have to be thankful for. Give each child a brown paper grocery sack. It needs to be slit open on one side creating a piece of paper roughly 36"x16". Also cut the bottom out of the sack. Fringe the ends of the sack a couple of inches, so it looks like a small rug. With

markers, crayons, etc., the children need to write about or draw pictures of things they are thankful for. For example, a picture of their family, their bicycle, a pet, their TV, etc. After the children are finished, let them share the things they are thankful for. Then tell them to sit on their piece of paper. Explain to them that they are now sitting on their contentment carpet. To be content is to be satisfied with what you have and with who you are. Whenever you start thinking about what others have and how you would like what they have, sit on your contentment carpet and think about everything and everyone you are thankful for. This helps you to keep your eyes focused on the most important things. When you begin to covet you usually become unthankful for what you have. You diminish the temptation to covet when you are thankful for what you have.

2. **Thankfulness kite.** Give each child a piece of construction paper 11"x14". With markers, crayons, etc., have the student write down names of things or people they are thankful for, or they may want to draw pictures of the things for which they are thankful. They may want to decorate the edges of the paper also. When they are finished with their words or pictures, have them roll their papers to create an 11" tube. Staple the ends together to form this tube. Staple a piece of string to the two ends of the tube so the children can hang their thankfulness kite. Add streamers made of yarn, crepe paper or strips of colored tissue paper to the bottom of the tube. Explain **You need to hang this in your room so you can see it. When you begin thinking about what others have, this kite can help you remember to be thankful for what you have. You are less likely to covet when you are thankful for what you have.**



3. Make sure all of the children have the Ten Commandment Worksheet from lesson two so the children can continue to memorize the Ten Commandments. Reinforce the idea that anyone who can say all Ten Commandments will get a special prize next week, the last week in this unit.

It is all right to want and desire things, but when wanting the object becomes all powerful and you only think about that thing, then you are coveting that object. When you realize you are doing that, a good way to stop it is to begin thinking about what you have to be thankful for. Thankfulness drives away the thoughts of covetousness.

End in with a prayer.

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STORY

- Teacher: Class, I want to show you something--a new addition to our science lab--a new super 2X4G telescopic microscope. It belongs to a friend of mine. She is letting us borrow it for our next science unit.
- Narrator: Charlotte, the "Science Queen" looked longingly at the microscope. She knew the microscope was very special and one of a kind. She had seen one like it advertised in one of her science magazines and knew it was very, very expensive and the top of the line for microscopes. She stared intently at the microscope. Her thoughts were a muddle of longing and desire, wanting to take the microscope for herself but knowing she couldn't have it. After school, she talked to The Commandment Kids about the microscope.
- Charlotte: I can't believe that new microscope we get to use. It is so awesome. I saw in my Science Lab magazine that there are only five of those microscopes made so far. That tells you the microscope is very special.
- Frankie: What's the big deal about the microscope?
- Charlotte: What's the big deal? I can't believe you asked that. It is only the best microscope to see the intricate blood vessels of any insect in the world.
- Chelsea: Big deal! I don't really care to see insects on the ground or under a microscope. You can have the insects and the microscope.
- Charlotte: (under her breath) Yeah, I wish I could have that microscope.
- Narrator: The next day Charlotte stayed in during recess and after school to do experiments on the new microscope.
- Teacher: (after school a few days later) Charlotte, you probably need to head home now. I need to lock up the classroom and head home myself.
- Charlotte: Okay. Oh how I wish I had this microscope. What I couldn't do for the Science Fair with this microscope.
- Narrator: For the next week Charlotte talked about and worked with the microscope and only the microscope. It was like her thoughts and actions became consumed by the microscope. Everything else, even her friends, were forgotten. A few days later...
- Geoffrey: Hey, Charlotte, can you come to the oak tree today after school. We're going to have a Bible study.

Charlotte: Well, I was going to work on a science experiment, but I guess I can come. See you there.

Narrator: Later that day the other Commandment Kids met together to talk about Charlotte's obsession with the microscope.

Geoffrey: Have you see Charlotte lately?

Frankie: I don't think any of us have seen her. All she does anymore is talk about that microscope and stay after school to use the microscope.

T.J.: Something about this whole thing doesn't seem right. I know it's okay to want things and enjoy working or playing with our things, but Charlotte has taken this obsession with the microscope a little too far. Don't you think so guys?

Chelsea: I think so. She never talks about anything other than that microscope. And sometimes I catch her just starring at it, like it is alive or something. It's kind of creepy if you ask me.

Geoffrey: I asked her to come after school today and I thought we could talk to her about it. Last week at Sunday School we talked about King Ahab and Naboth's vineyard. Does anyone know that story?

Frankie: I don't. Tell us about it.

Geoffrey: Well, King Ahab was a bad king and was very mean. One day he saw a vineyard that was very nice. He decided he wanted that vineyard. The only trouble with wanting the vineyard is that it belonged to someone else. Even though it belonged to someone else, he still wanted it. He called the owner, Naboth, saying he wanted to buy the vineyard from him, but Naboth refused. Then King Ahab said he would give Naboth another vineyard instead of the one King Ahab wanted and again Naboth said no. King Ahab sat around and thought only about that vineyard until he became very angry. He wanted that vineyard! To get it he paid some people to lie about Naboth which caused Naboth's death and then he took the vineyard for his very own. This was terrible because he wanted something so badly, it made him do evil.

Kassy: You know, that kind of sounds like the idea behind the last commandment. All right Commandment Kids, what does the last commandment say? Remember it says, "You shall not covet your neighbor's house, or anything belonging to your neighbor." Exodus 20:17.

Chelsea: What does covet have to do with anything? And what does covet mean exactly?

Kassy: Covet means you want something that belongs to someone else. And coveting also means because you want something so bad, you might just do something you aren't supposed to be able to get it. Do you think Charlotte is coveting that microscope? I hope she doesn't do anything bad to get it.

T.J: I don't think Charlotte has done anything bad yet, but she needs to understand about coveting objects, especially a certain microscope. Oh, here she comes now. Geoffrey, why don't you tell her about King Ahab and Naboth and the rest of us will talk to her about the last commandment.

Narrator: All of the kids agreed and Geoffrey told Charlotte about the Bible story. Charlotte is very smart and she understood early on what The Commandment Kids were trying to tell her.

Charlotte: Okay guys, why are you telling me about this Bible story and the last commandment?

Kassy: We are concerned about you Charlotte. We hope you are not coveting that microscope we have in the classroom. We don't want you to do anything bad to get that microscope.

Charlotte: I must admit, I have thought about how to get that microscope and now I am ashamed to have to admit that. I now know it is wrong to want something that belongs to someone else so badly that you would do anything to get it. I sure don't want to be like King Ahab. I want to be a Commandment Kid! And to do so I think I need to think a little more about that last commandment. Thanks for setting me straight. I still like that microscope, but I guess the one I have at home is okay too. Hey, you guys want to play soccer tomorrow for recess. I've been paying so much attention to that microscope, I haven't had recess all week. I'm ready to play with something else now.

