



The Principle of Trust

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Focus God's eighth commandment is, "You shall not steal." When you trust God, you won't steal because you trust Him to always provide for you.

Fun Do you have a favorite book that you love to reread? What do you love about the book?

Review Key Scriptures: Exodus 20:15; Ephesians 4:28; Exodus 16:16–18, 28; John 10:10; Genesis 2:15; Ecclesiastes 2:10; 1 Corinthians 3:8; Joshua 7:11

1. **Stop stealing.**

When you develop the principle to trust God, you no longer steal. If you take more than you are supposed to take, then you are stealing from another person *and* stealing from God. A person who steals learns to work in deceit and darkness where Satan works.

2. **Start working.**

Work means to earn something, and labor means to be exhausted. Some people have jobs but don't work. When you trust God as your provider, He blesses your hard work and provides for your day of rest. Work brings rewards and joy.

3. **Get giving.**

You trust God when you give Him the first fruits of your labor as a tithe, and He blesses you with further provision. When we make more than we need, we can give to others. We don't have to give; we *get* to give. God has forgiven us through Christ. He gives us the opportunity to restore anything we've stolen, and He removes our guilt and shame.

Group Dynamics Idea Celebrate with your group when a member receives a new job or a promotion. The joyful sharing will be an encouragement for everyone to work harder and to care for others.

Discuss

1. How is “You shall not steal” explained in Ephesians 4:28? What is the benefit to everyone?
2. John 10:10 says, “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.” Why does Satan want to steal from believers? How is deceit and lack of trust involved when a Christian steals?
3. Give examples of when you trusted God during hard labor and it brought you reward and joy. Think of times in the Bible when trusting God brought blessings of deliverance.
4. In what way does Joshua 6:19 refer to the first fruits of labor? Why would lack of trust prevent God’s blessing? How does consecrating the first 10 percent show trust in God?
5. List some common ways of stealing that our culture might find acceptable. How can an entitlement mentality deceive a person to steal rather than trust God? Name some ways you can begin to trust God more completely.
6. Explain the difference between *making* more than you need and *taking* more than you need. Which enables you to give to others? Which way does not steal?
7. Read Exodus 16:25–28. How does resting from hard work on the Sabbath show trust in God’s provision?

Take Home As we conclude, remember the following:

- When we trust God and obey His commandment of “You shall not steal,” He provides exactly what we need.
- If we take what belongs to God and others, we show distrust and unbelief, and we cannot be blessed.

- God says throughout Scripture to trust Him for all provision, including finances, health, relationships, and children.
- God has already forgiven our debts through Christ. He wants to restore what the enemy has stolen from us and remove our guilt and shame.

Prayer

Father, thank You for your provision for us. Please show us where we have stolen from You or from others, so we can repent and turn to You. Help us guard our ways to trust You for provision, rest, and restoration. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip The summer break is here, and sometimes that means not seeing your members for months. You may want to occasionally email the group with encouragement and ask if they have prayer requests. If you meet for coffee or before a church service, you can continue the fellowship you have faithfully maintained over the last semester.