

# **Bible Study Discussion**

**2014-2015**

**Exodus 20:15**



## **Lesson 8: Who's Robbing Whom?**

# Memory Verses



*You shall not steal.*

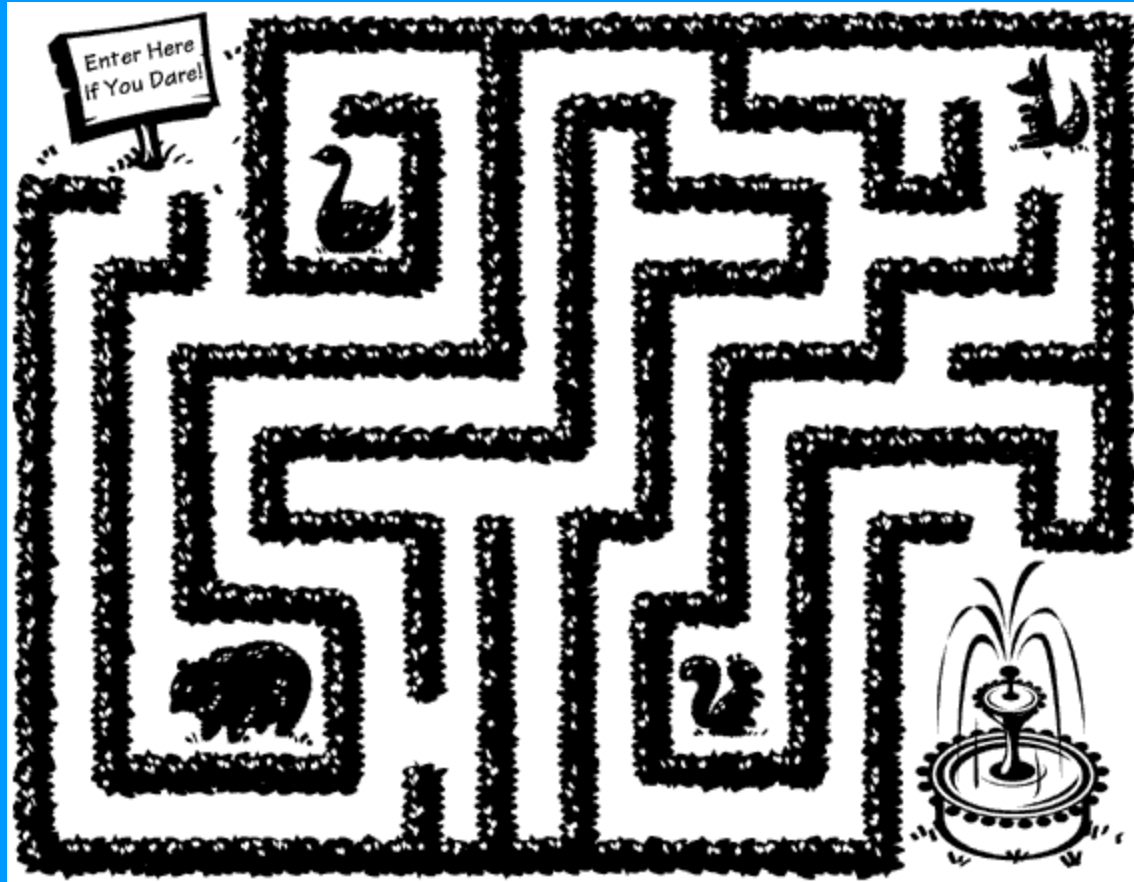
*Exodus 20:15*



# W.P. Nicholson Evangelist and Preacher



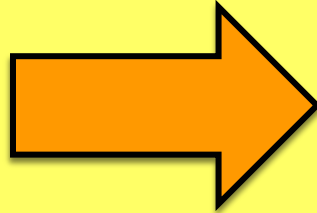
# Stealing



Generosity

# Negative & Positive

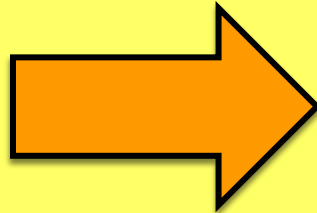
**You shall  
not  
steal!**



**You  
generously shall  
respect another's  
property!**

Implication

**You shall not be  
a taker!**



**You shall be  
a giver!**

# Why do people steal?

- We live in a consumer cultural. Our capitalism is driven by demand. Advertising tells people what they need.
- In our culture, people evaluate others based on their possessions. Society values based on what you have and not who you are.



# Why do people steal?



- We desire things because we have a natural human instinct for pleasure, comfort, and envy.
- Humans have a need  
for things,  
for power, and  
for victory at all costs!



# \$TATIC\$

Identity Theft / Fraud Statistics	Data
Average number of U.S. identity fraud victims annually	11,571,900
Total financial loss attributed to identity theft in 2013	\$24,700,000,000
Total financial loss attributed to identity theft in 2012	\$21,000,000,000
Total financial loss attributed to identity theft in 2010	\$13,200,000,000

U.S. Department of Justice, Javelin Strategy & Research  
July 8, 2014



# \$TATIC\$

## States with the Highest Identity Theft

Arizona  
California  
Florida  
Texas  
Nevada

## States with the Lowest Identity Theft

South Dakota  
North Dakota  
Iowa  
Montana  
Wyoming



# \$TATIC\$

<b>US Crime Stats</b>	<b>Occur</b>
<b>One robbery every</b>	<b>1.5 min</b>
<b>A property crime occurs every</b>	<b>3.5 sec</b>
<b>One burglary every</b>	<b>1.5 sec</b>
<b>One larceny-theft every</b>	<b>5.1 sec</b>
<b>One motor vehicle theft every</b>	<b>43.7 sec</b>

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
July 7, 2014

# Stealing Comes in the Form of:

## ***Deprivation of Property***

- Who does the property belong to?  
Communists say: the state  
Capitalists say: the individual  
Bible says: the Lord (*The earth is the Lord's and everything in it.* Psalm 24:1)
- Therefore, when you rob people of property, you sin against God.

By Stuart Briscoe

# Stealing Comes in the Form of:

## ***Deprivation of Liberty***

- This is kidnapping. In the Bible, it's punishable by death not restitution.

## ***Deprivation of Dignity***

- This is smearing a reputation and character.
- This is done through libel, slander, or defamation of character.
- God invested us with honorable character.

# Stealing Comes in the Form of:

## *Deprivation of Opportunity*

- When you steal from your employer, you deprive him/her of their right to make a profit. Often, the cost is absorbed by the costumers.
- When you call in sick and you aren't, you rob him/her of his right to get a full day's work for a full day's wage. This includes arriving late, leaving early, and taking long breaks.
- Cheating on taxes is stealing from the government. (Luke 20:25)

# Stealing Comes in the Form of:

## ***Deprivation of Necessities***

- Stealing is not giving someone what you owe them.
- Stealing is looking on suffering people and doing nothing. The have's have a responsibility to help the have-not's.
- Stealing is denying the needy an opportunity to survive.

# Stealing Comes in the Form of:

## ***Contradictory Behaviors***

- When our mouths say one thing and our actions say another, we steal from God, because we do not give the right message to people.
- We rob God of God's credibility by our inconsistent behavior.

## ***Not Giving***

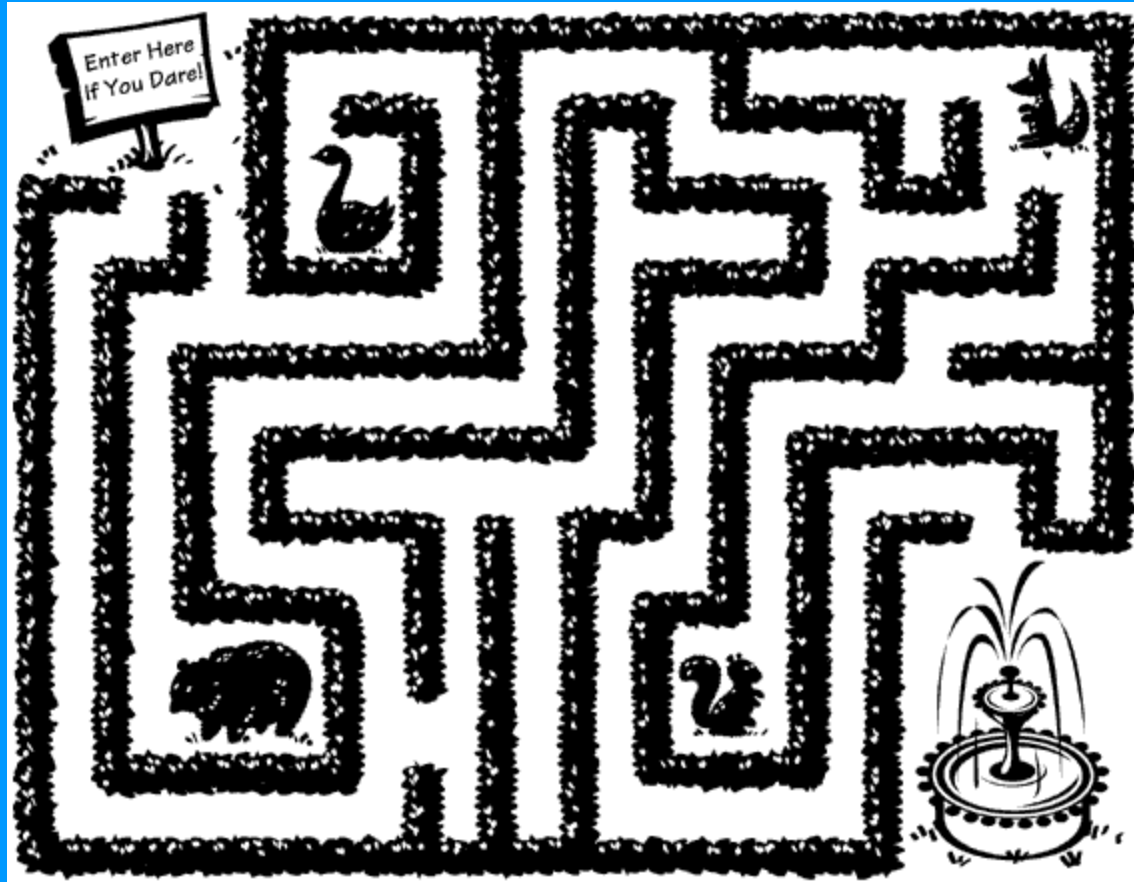
- When we do not give our tithes and offerings, it's stealing. (Malachi 3:7-10)

# *Dangers of Stealing*

1. The thief will get in trouble with the law and the Law.
2. Stealing can ruin relationships with others.
3. Stealing leads to deception and lies.
4. It harms the thief morally and emotionally.
5. Stealing often times burdens others.
6. The victims may feel violated, fearful, or angry. Trusting others is affected.
7. It can hinder the work of the Lord.



# Stealing



# Generosity

# **Generosity**

All things belong to God and we are stewards of God's world.

## ***Benefits for the Giver***

1. Being generous with your time, talents, and treasures can draw you closer to God.
2. Being generous will give you joy.
3. In your faithful generosity, "God will open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing." Malachi 3:10b

# **Generosity**

All things belong to God and we are stewards of God's world.

## ***Benefits for the Recipients***

1. Those who receive will be blessed by the generosity of others.
2. The gifts received will influence transformation of the recipients through knowing and following Jesus.
3. The recipients receive hope.



**Are you a  
Radical  
Giver?**

**Mark 14:3-9**



**You shall not be a taker. You shall be a giver.**

Where can you be more  
generous in order to  
further the  
Kingdom of God?

**Applying the Lesson to Your Life**



# Closing Prayer