

Name: _____

Abiding Savior Free Lutheran Church Confirmation

The Seventh Commandment

After completing the lesson, the student will be able to:

- Write from memory the 7th Commandment
- Summarize what the 7th Commandment means for our lives
- Define the term 'steward' and 'stewardship'.
- Define the term 'tithe' and explain how it applies to us.
- List at least two principles/truths in regards to giving.
- Define the differences between the term's 'robbery', 'theft', and 'fraud'.
- Describe ways we can positively keep & break this commandment.

THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

1. Use your catechism to write in the following information about the Seventh Commandment. Please copy it word for word below.

What is the Seventh Commandment?

What does this mean?

2. What are two ways to keep this commandment? (*Remember, you can't use the word "not" here*)

This commandment protects not only our own property, but also the property of others. God tells us we are not to take that which is not rightly ours. This commandment is necessary, because by nature man is prone to laziness and would not hesitate to take something that belongs to someone else. In the absence of such protection, and without its enforcement by the governmental authorities, you would not be able to provide for yourself and those dependent upon you. Further, you would be at the mercy of those who decide not to work, but simply take that which belongs to someone else. All sense of security and an orderly society would disappear in absence of this commandment.

3. For each passage below, answer: “Does God have a right to give us such a commandment? Why?”

1 Chronicles 29:14

Psalms 24:1

Psalms 50:10

1 Corinthians 10:26

STEWARDSHIP

Throughout Scripture we learn that all things belong to God. In fact, we do not ‘own’ anything, for God is the true owner of all things. Although we do not own anything in this sense, we are given the responsibility of caring for God’s possessions. We are to be the managers or stewards of His possessions, and we are to use His property in a wise way. We are to be good stewards of all that He gave to us. It is also true that God has distributed property in various ways—some have more, some have less. Having less or having more is not wrong, but what is wrong is when our property (riches, stuff) becomes our god.

We are good stewards of our property when we use it to supply food, clothing, shelter, and reasonable pleasure for ourselves and those dependent upon us. We can also use our property for the benefit and good of others, especially those who have less.

3. Read the following Bible passages and note what truths they reveal regarding riches and property.

Deuteronomy 6:10-12

Proverbs 30:8

Matthew 6:19-21

1 Timothy 6:17

SEVENTH COMMANDMENT APPLIED

4. According to our Catechism, what is it to steal? (p. 54) How much does one have to take to have it considered ‘stealing’?

Do you know the difference between these two terms—‘robbery’ & ‘theft’? Robbery is taking someone’s goods by force, while theft is taking someone’s goods or property in a sly or sneaky way. “Fraud” is another term that applies here, and is any dishonest business deal, cheating, or intentionally deceiving someone in order to gain material advantage.

While we often think of this commandment only in regards to actually going out and forcefully taking something from someone else, we see that it also includes so much more. If we are dishonest in any business agreement, overcharge for work, do not pay for services received, fail to return borrowed goods, or damage another’s property, we are in each of these cases also stealing. It is important to note as well that even if we do not actually do the stealing, but are aware of it and allow it to go on, or are in the company of those stealing, we too are guilty of breaking this commandment.

5. Read the following passages and note if it describes ‘robbery, theft, or fraud’.

Leviticus 6:2-4

Joshua 7:20-21

1 Kings 21:11-15

Proverbs 29:24a

Luke 10:30

6. Read the following examples and note if this would be considered stealing (yes or no)

a. You and a friend are in Walmart, and your friend takes two candy bars. She pays for one but the other she slips into her coat pocket _____

b. You regularly babysit for your neighbors. Rather than paying you for each day, they pay you once a week, and you are to keep track of your hours. This past week the kids have been especially bratty and irritating. Instead of 12 hours, you write down 13 because they were so difficult _____

c. Your parents ask you to wash dishes. You are in a hurry to get to the basketball game and you offer your little brother \$1.00 if he will do them for you so you can leave right away. He agrees, and you leave. But you never pay him because you 'forgot'. _____

d. A friend has about 100 video games. He has one you especially like, and he borrows it to you. Yet you forget to return it and eventually just keep it as your own. _____

e. You spend an evening watching Adventure Time and hanging with your friends. You have a lot of fun, but neglect to get your homework done. On the way to school the next day you ask your friend for his homework and you copy over all his answers to your sheet.

Part of this commandment that we often overlook is the fact that we can also steal from God. How do we do this? We can do this by withholding from Him money, service, time, honor, faith, or love that is His due. A very common area of stealing from God involves our money. Throughout the Bible we read of a concept called 'the tithe'.

7. Read the following passages and write down what truths you learn about the tithe.

Genesis 28:22

Leviticus 27:30

2 Chronicles 31:5

Malachi 3:7-10

Matthew 23:23

The Bible has much to say about not only tithing, but about giving in general. Giving involves not only money, but also our time and our talent. A good place to begin is with the concept of a tithe, or 10%. While not a “law” unto us, the tithe is nonetheless a great standard that we can begin with. In our time, talent, and treasure, a tithe back to God is most appropriate. Many folks think ‘giving’ to God (in a tithe) is a burden, but the Bible tells us quite to opposite. Giving unto God and unto His work is to be a great joy.

8. Read the following passages and note what they say about giving.

1 Chronicles 29:9;

Proverbs 11:25;

Malachi 3:10;

Corinthians 9:6-7;

9. What if we choose to ignore God in this commandment? Read the following verses and write out what happens.

Jeremiah 22:13;

Ezekiel 22:29-31;

1 Corinthians 6:10;

11. Read the following passages. How do they show stealing?

James 2:15-17;

1 John 3:17-18;

Philippians 2:4

Student & Parent Questions: *for the student and a parent to discuss and answer together*

1. What are some ways that your family is tempted to steal from God by neglecting to give of your time, talent, or treasure?

2. Describe two ways in which your family is currently keeping this commandment by giving of your time, talent, and/or treasure.

STUDENT & PARENT SIGNATURE:

By signing below, we affirm (1) this lesson is complete and that (2) we completed the "Student & Parent Questions" section together

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____