

# THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

## THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

### DEVOTION

#### YOU SHALL NOT STEAL. (EXODUS 20:15)

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

**Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. . . . Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. (Ephesians 4:25, 28)**

### FOR SHARING

1. Robin Hood. Jesse James. Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. What wrong message do we give by making these individuals into “folk heroes”?
2. What kinds of actions—both sinful and illegal—come under the category “stealing”? What negative attitudes and behaviors can result from “petty thefts”?
3. A Samaritan in the parable (Luke 10:29–37) gave himself unselfishly for the benefit and welfare of another—a stranger and an enemy! In what ways is Jesus the Good Samaritan? How has He rescued and cared for us?
4. Jesus “took” our sins and left them at the cross that we may have new life. How does our new life in Christ affect our attitudes and actions toward others? toward their property and possessions?
5. Share, as time permits, the specific ways you and your congregation can “improve and protect” your neighbor's property.

### PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank You that You have provided us and our neighbors with material possessions. Help us all to realize that our money and our possessions are gifts from You. Help us to be grateful for all the gifts we have received from Your bountiful goodness. When we are tempted to steal, remind us to look to Your Son, Jesus, for our strength to do Your will. In His name we pray. Amen.