
WORSHIP

Suggested worship songs: Doxology (God Be Praised), Been So Good, What A Friend We Have in Jesus, Christ is Enough

WELCOME

Have you ever been robbed or scammed? How did it affect you, and how did it make you a wiser person today?

WORD

EXODUS 20:15

"You shall not steal."

EPHESIANS 4:28

He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have *something* to share with one who has need.

The Greek word for “steal” is *klepto*, while the Hebrew word is *ganab*—meaning “to carry away secretly,” “to deceive,” or “to take what is not yours.”

RECOGNIZE the many ways we steal

There is obvious stealing—taking what isn’t yours, robbery, fraud, scams, corruption, bribery, or shoplifting. But there is also subtle stealing:

- Robbing God of time and devotion
- Taking credit for someone else’s work
- Withholding appreciation or honor
- Failing to return borrowed items

Stealing is more than taking things—it is taking, withholding, or misusing what belongs to God or what He has entrusted to others (Malachi 3:8; 1 Corinthians 6:19–20).

Even our **time** belongs to God. Do we give it back to Him? This includes how we rest, enjoy life, and prioritize Him in our daily schedule.

For leaders, there is another serious form of stealing—misrepresenting God’s Word. When we claim God said something He did not, or when we neglect to teach what Scripture actually says, we “steal” from His truth (Jeremiah 23:30–32).

We also steal when we take glory that belongs to God alone (Isaiah 42:8). Stealing is not just a problem of the hands—it is a problem of the heart.

REPENT of the heart behind stealing

True worship is our proper response to who God is, what He has done, and what He continues to do.

Stealing rejects God as Owner

“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it” (Psalm 24:1). Nothing truly belongs to us.

Stealing rejects God as Provider

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want” (Psalm 23:1). God promises to provide what we need (Philippians 4:19). Stealing often begins when the heart stops trusting God. This was the case with Adam and Eve. They had everything—yet they doubted God’s goodness. Satan planted lies, and their distrust led to disobedience (Genesis 3:4–5). Lying and stealing are closely connected.

Stealing violates God’s design

It goes against love, justice, and stewardship (Jeremiah 17:11; James 5:4–6). When we steal, we harm others—causing pain, loss, and injustice. It reflects the work of the enemy, who comes to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10a).

A clear example is Achan (Joshua 7). His hidden sin caused defeat for the entire nation. If he had only waited, God would have provided lawful blessing later. Sin spreads—it never stays contained.

We see this progression in David’s life (2 Samuel 11):

- Neglect of responsibility
- Idleness
- Lust and coveting
- Abuse of power
- Stealing another man’s wife
- Adultery
- Deception
- Murder
- Involving others in sin

Sin multiplies. One small compromise can lead to greater destruction. The heart of a thief rejects God as Owner and Provider, violates His design, harms others, and spreads evil.

REPLACE taking with blessing

The gospel doesn’t just tell us to stop stealing—it calls us to become **givers**.

Ephesians 4:28 teaches that we are to work so that we can share with those in need. Before Christ, we take. After Christ, we give (Acts 20:35). This transformation touches every area of life:

- Give your **time** by valuing others (even arriving early instead of making others wait)
- Give **peace** in relationships (husbands, love your wives sacrificially)
- Give **attention** (parents, be present with your children)
- Give **integrity** at work, even when no one is watching

A taker becomes a giver through grace.

Scripture teaches that sin requires justice (Exodus 22). When Zacchaeus encountered Jesus, he responded by giving generously and making restitution (Luke 19:8). That is what true repentance looks like.

Ultimately, our greatest debt was paid by Jesus. The record of our sins was canceled through His sacrifice on the cross (Colossians 2:13–14). “The wages of sin is death,” but Jesus paid that price for us (Romans 6:23).

Because we have received grace, we are now called to give grace.

The greatest gift we can ever give is the message of Jesus Christ. As John 3:16 reminds us, God gave His Son for us—so we can give that same message of life to others.

So today, don’t just stop taking—**start blessing**. Give life, give grace, and share Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. What are some ways you may be stealing without realizing it?
2. What does stealing reveal about our trust in God, contentment, or love for others?
3. What is one practical way you or your family can move from "taking" to giving this week?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for those who steal (or tempted to steal) because of poverty, greed, and ignorance or unbelief in a good and generous God who provides for all we need. Be a channel of God's blessings to someone and help meet their legitimate needs. Share the greatest blessing --- Jesus Christ, by sharing the gospel to someone this week.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives.

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.
- For legislators to promote and support bills and laws aligned with God's Word.
- War in Ukraine to end, loss of lives prevented.
- Pray for persecuted Christians in Sudan and Nigeria) --- many have been beheaded and murdered; earnestly seek God's intervention to stop the bloodshed. Pray for freedom from oppression, that God's word and His people bring them comfort and hope.
- PRAISE God that all Israeli hostages have been restored to their families! Continue to pray for Israel's war with terrorists to end according to God's purpose and for His glory. For Jewish people worldwide who are experiencing a surge of antisemitism. May this lead them to the Messiah, Jesus as they turn to God for help and comfort.
- For nations in turmoil (e.g., Ukraine, Middle Eastern countries, etc.) to experience true freedom in Christ and

become centers for massive spiritual revivals in their regions. For new Iranian leadership to rise up that will be for the people of Iran, will promote freedom of worship that the Iranian believers will be able to reach out to the rest of their countrymen and the people of the Middle East.

- For the people of Mali who are experiencing a violent takeover of their government by Islamist terrorists.

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God, and make disciples
- For elders, pastors, deacons, and families to become holy, humble, harmonious, happy, and heart-working)
- For ministries and church expansions worldwide.

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain (MMRC)

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper and intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living.
- Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

Exodus 20:15

"You shall not steal."