

The Ten
Commandments

9th & 10th
Commandments

TEACHER GUIDE

Luther
House
Confirmation
Curriculum



You shall not covet.

Essential Question: What does our desire for things that aren't ours reveal about the condition of our hearts?

Students will be able to:

- Describe what a reputation is and why God would be concerned about yours.
- Identify how we harm others and their reputations by what we say (and tweet, post, etc.).
- Explain how trust is the basis of every relationship.
- Connect the ways we tear down our neighbors with our failure to fear, love, and trust God as we should.
- Give examples of ways to protect your neighbor's reputation and relationships.
- Hear the good news of Christ's forgiveness that sets you free from defending your own reputation and tearing down your neighbor's reputation.

Lesson Overview: Let's review: What are the Seventh and Eighth Commandments?

These two Commandments don't allow stealing or false witness, so it's obvious that they apply to thieves and liars. We might even start thinking that we could do what these Commandments require. But, before we can imagine we've got some traction in the law, God pulls the rug out from under us with the Commandment not to covet. To covet is to want what does not belong to you. Even if we could get a handle on our outward behavior, our hearts still *want what they want*. God promises to give us everything we need, but our hearts still desire what doesn't belong to us. God freely gives. We don't trust Him. So we covet.


1. Opening Prayer



Dear heavenly Father, You are the one who always keeps Your promise, and who gives us everything we need. Cause us to trust this, and to receive everything You give with thanksgiving, so that we can be useful to our neighbors. Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Amen.

2. Essential Vocabulary



 **For Teachers: Words matter! Here are a few that you can explore briefly with your students:**

covet: to want what is not yours

begrudge: to be bitter about something

inheritance: an irrevocable gift (cannot be taken back) that you receive upon the death of the giver

entice: to attract someone or something by manipulating their desires

responsibilities: those things others need from you as part of your vocation

jealous: desiring to have something all to yourself


3. Video Lesson: Ninth & Tenth Commandments



This video offers some words about what the Ninth & Tenth Commandments are all about. It is foundational for the lesson that follows.

4. SING BOLDLY: Hymn Connection



 ***There is a video that explores a hymn that can be sung during worship, and how the hymn connects to what we believe. The students will learn how this ties into the subject of our lesson, some background of the hymn, and the video will even teach us how to sing it boldly!***


Teachers: At this point in the lesson, there will be an option to skip ahead to the “**Memory Work and Wrap Up**” portion. Alternatively, you may lead your group through all or part of “**Here I Hear & Speak**”. This section will equip you to lead group discussion and achieve the lesson’s learning goals. We advise that you explore this option with your small group (or as an individual). This guide has been created primarily to help you as you facilitate the “Hear I Hear & Speak” section. You will be learning about this part of Martin Luther’s Small Catechism, how it comes out of God’s Word in Scripture, and even how to equip our learners how to give that Word to others.

5. HERE I HEAR & SPEAK: Discussions and Activities




Group Activity: MAGIC LAMP. Imagine that you found a magic lamp and a genie inside granted you three wishes. What would you wish for? Share your three wishes with a small group.

What did you wish for? Did you wish you were taller? Wealthier? Did any of you try to cheat the system by wishing for more wishes? Whenever you make a wish, you are expressing a desire for something that you don’t have. You’ve probably heard the expression, “The grass is always greener on the other side.” It means that we desire the stuff we don’t have more than the stuff we do. Think about the way advertisements take advantage of this desire. Ads are always trying to convince you to spend your money on something you don’t have. **Discuss: Why do you think we want things we don’t have?**


 **TEACHER NOTE:** At the root of this is our lack of trust in God. Direct student discussion to how our constant desire for things we don’t have is an indication of our lack of trust that God is the provider of every good gift.

It can be fun to think about what we’d wish for if we had a magic lamp, but there’s a word for wanting something you don’t have: coveting. So when you hear the words, “I wish...” come out of your mouth, chances are that you’re coveting. Read Psalm 145:15-16: “The eyes of all look to You, and You give them food in due season. You open Your hand; You satisfy the desire of every living thing.” Who provides us with everything we have and everything we need? **Discuss: How are we saying something else about God with our constant desire for things we don’t have?**


 **TEACHER NOTE:** Again, our constant desire for these things reveals that we don’t trust that God is a giver, not a demander, and that He provides all that we need for our lives and bodies.

In the Ninth Commandment, God says “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house.” The explanation to this Commandment makes it clear that this doesn’t only mean “house” as in the physical structure where someone lives, but includes your neighbor’s *inheritance*, as well. **What is an inheritance?**

“I know my rights!” How might we try to assert our rights as a way of getting something that belongs to our neighbor? On the other hand, how could we be of help and service to our neighbors in keeping their property? How is the Ninth Commandment related to the Commandment not to steal?


 **TEACHER NOTE:** The Ninth Commandment exposes the condition of our hearts that leads to theft. We don’t trust God to provide, so we want what is not ours. When our desire leads us to take what is not ours, it is stealing. However, God is especially concerned with the *condition* of our hearts (in other words, what we’re trusting). Even if we could avoid stealing, the sin is still there in our hearts.

Is our neighbor’s property the only thing we covet? The Tenth Commandment prohibits us from coveting our neighbors’ relationships. What kinds of relationships do other people have that we might wish we had for ourselves? In what ways do people try to undermine the relationships of others? How is this related to the Eighth Commandment?

 **TEACHER NOTE:** The Tenth Commandment exposes the condition of our hearts that leads us to tear down our neighbors and destroy their relationships through gossip and slander.

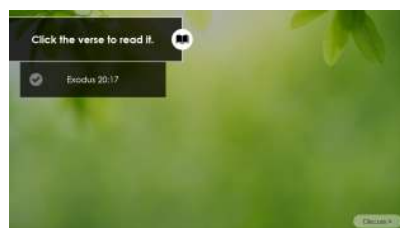
We are not to “entice, force, or steal away” those people who have responsibilities to our neighbors. Remember that word vocation? Vocations are how people are called to meet their neighbors’ needs. Rather than trying to undermine our neighbor’s relationships, we are to encourage others in their vocations so that they “stay and fulfill their responsibilities to our neighbors”. Just as God provides you with everything you need, He also uses people, in their vocations, to provide for your neighbor’s needs.

But, here’s the problem: you can’t just decide to trust Him. That’s what it means that we are in bondage to sin, So God frees you from this by giving you the promise to trust: He gives you His own Son for the forgiveness of your sin. You first received this eternal promise when you were baptized. When we trust God to keep His promise, will we worry about whether or not our own needs will be met? Why or why not? How would this change the way we view our neighbor’s relationships?

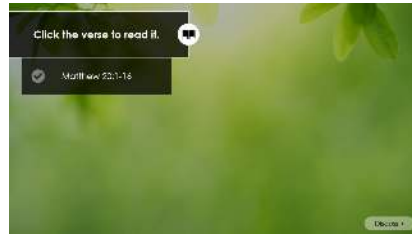
 **TEACHER NOTE:** When the certainty of God’s promise frees us from having to worry about our own needs, we can encourage others to serve our neighbors without worrying about ourselves.



In the Word: Let’s see how Scripture passages relate to what we’ve discussed so far!



- Read: Exodus 20:17
- Discuss: Does “anything that is your neighbor’s” leave any room for exceptions?



- Read: Matthew 20:1-16
- Discuss: Who is the “master of the house”?
- Why are the workers who went into the vineyard first so upset? Would you be upset in this situation? Why or why not?
- At the end of the parable, the master asks “Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?” To begrudge is to be bitter or jealous about something. “Begrudging my generosity” is a great definition of coveting. What are the first workers coveting in this parable?
- Jesus is making a comparison to the kingdom of heaven. You receive the kingdom of heaven when you hear the forgiveness of sins and eternal life *for you* on account of Jesus Christ. Because you are united with Christ in Baptism, the kingdom of heaven is *your* inheritance. That means it is the irrevocable gift which is given to you. Even though this is most certainly true, we continue to covet. Why is this so?


 **TEACHER NOTE:** Sin. We do not trust that God will do what He said.



- Read: Exodus 20:5-6
- God says, “I the LORD your God am a jealous God.” What do we usually think of when we hear the word “jealous”?
- Jealousy means wanting something all to yourself. When we want to keep something all to ourselves, are we trusting that God provides everything that we need?
- God is jealous. That means He wants your *heart* all to Himself. In other words, He doesn’t want you to fear, love, and trust anything but Him. Which Commandment is this?

 **TEACHER NOTE:** This is the First Commandment to have no other gods.

- Why doesn’t God want you to fear, love, and trust anything besides Him?

 **TEACHER NOTE:** God knows that He is the only one who actually gives you what He promises. He doesn’t want you to trust anything else because, ultimately, they can’t deliver. In the end, only God can and will deliver what He says - always.

6. MEMORY WORK



The words in Luther's Small Catechism are worth memorizing. In this lesson, there could be tools, including songs, that will equip students to find some success.

- *The Ninth Commandment:* You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
- *What does this mean?* We are to fear and love God so that we do not try to trick our neighbors out of their inheritance or property or try to get it for ourselves by claiming a legal right to it and the like, but instead, be of help and service to them in keeping what is theirs.
- *The Tenth Commandment:* You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female servant, or ox, or donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.
- *What does this mean?* We are to fear and love God so that we do not entice, force, or steal away from our neighbors their spouses, household workers, or livestock, but instead urge them to stay and fulfill their responsibilities to our neighbors.

7. LEARNING CHECK



- The one source of everything that we need in life is
 - our own hard work.
 - **God.**
 - making good decisions.
 - all of these.



- What does it mean to *covet* something?
 - **To want something that doesn't belong to you**
 - To destroy another person's property
 - To steal it



- To which table do the Ninth and Tenth Commandments belong?
 - The First Table (your relationship with God)
 - **The Second Table (your relationship with your neighbor)**



- True or **False** - You could keep both the Ninth and Tenth Commandments by avoiding selfish behavior.



- When we constantly desire things that we don't have, what does that reveal about our hearts?
 - Nothing. This has nothing to do our hearts.
 - Deep down in our hearts, we are good—we just need to keep looking for it.
 - **We are not trusting God to provide us with everything we need.**

- Rather than trying to undermine our neighbor's relationships, we should
 - **encourage others in their vocations to serve our neighbor.**
 - just mind our own business.
 - look out for ourselves and our interests only.



- God is jealous for you. This means that...(select all that apply)
 - God is creepy.
 - **God wants you to trust Him.**
 - **God wants you to ask Him because He is the only one who can and will give you what you need.**

8. WRAP UP

Closing Prayer & Benediction



- Father, You alone have created us, and You alone provide us with all the things we need. Keep giving Your promise to us, and cause us to trust You so that we are of help and service to our neighbors in keeping what is theirs; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

It is good practice to give a blessing to each individual student before they leave you! (You might also select one of them to give this spoken benediction to you.) Our Lord uses baptized believers to give this, God's message, to one another. Here is a Benediction that you could use this week:

Our gracious Lord, who is jealous for you, bless you and keep you in faith. Amen.



Luther House
of Study