



CHILDREN BROCHURE

MORAVIAN CHURCH – BARBADOS CONFERENCE
Provincial Theme: Advance the Kingdom: S.H.I.F.T.

S. – Seek & Submit
H. – Hear & Heed
I. – Imagine & Insight
F. – Focus & Function
T. – Totally Transformed

Age: 13 yrs. & Over

FUNCTION

November 8 – Thou shall not Steal

Scripture:

Sing along with me:

God is watching over you

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rs02V1hcpQc>

Memory verse:

Exodus 20: 15 "Do not steal". (NIRV)

Ezekiel 33: 12 – 16

Let us read together

12 "Son of man, speak to your people. Tell them, 'Suppose a godly person does not obey the Lord. Then the right things that person has done in the past count for nothing. Suppose a sinful person turns away from doing wrong things. Then the wrong things that person has done in the past won't bring them judgment. A godly person who sins won't be allowed to live. That's true even though they used to do right things.'

13 Suppose I tell a godly person that they will live. And they trust in the fact that they used to do what is right. But now they do what is evil. Then I will not remember any of the right things they have done. They will die because they have done so many evil things.

14 Suppose I say to a sinful person, 'You can be sure you will die.' And then they turn away from their sin. They do what is fair and right.

15 They return things they take to make sure loans are repaid. They give back what they have stolen. They obey my rules that give life. They do not do what is evil. Then you can be sure they will live. They will not die.

16 None of the sins they have committed will be held against them. They have done what is fair and right. So, you can be sure they will live.

Message:

Let's talk about it.

Let us first consider what we mean by stealing. Stealing is defined as taking someone's property without permission. Did you ask for the cookies on the table which were baked this morning, just as your mother turned away? Did you ask your sister if you can wear her new shirt? Did you ask your brother for \$5.00 that you took from his wallet? Did you ask your neighbour for the mangoes that you picked from her tree?

The memory verse simply says, "you shall not steal". This is one of the commandments that God issued to the Israelites, through Moses. We still use these commandments as guidelines to our daily living. Stealing can be considered as a very serious crime. You may say, "but my brother will not mind if I took the \$5.00. After all he has loads of money, he will not miss it." But, did you ask? Did he tell you that you can take it?

When you went into the neighbour's tree to pick the mangoes without asking, you did not know that the dog saw you and was waiting at the bottom of the tree. Now you are scared of the dog, so you cannot get out of the tree. Now what are you going to do? It could have been a simple thing to ask the neighbour for some mangoes. So now we see that there are consequences for stealing.

Remember, we said that stealing is taking without permission. Your brother had that money to pay for the lawn mower. Your mother had baked those cookies for the cake sale at church. Not only that, she had some put aside for you, and now you will not get them, because they are going to the sale.

Now one of the things about stealing is that stealing can become a habit. You get away first time, so you try a second time, and then a third. Then your items get larger. So, you get into the habit of checking your brother's wallet, you take larger amounts of money, until one day he asks you where you are getting the money to buy the things that you are buying. How can you afford

these things? Of course, he suspected that you were taking his money, but he needed proof, and you gave it to him by taking larger amounts of money and spending it.

You are now made to pay back. But you have no money. So, you have to go out and work with him for no pay, he is a landscaper,

Do you know that in some cultures, a consequence of stealing is that you get your hand cut off? Yes!

Iran is an Islamic republic and its legal system is based on a strict reading of Sharia law. In January 2018 authorities in north-eastern Iran amputated the hand of a 34-year-old man convicted of stealing sheep. Similar punishments have been meted out in Saudi Arabia, Nigeria and Somalia. Oct 25, 2019

Nothing is more important and necessary to the survival of a society than basic honesty: honesty with each other, with ourselves and with God. But you can say that young children do not understand the concept of personal property. When they see something they want, they simply take it. As you get older, honesty becomes more obvious and the appreciation of property boundaries develops. Stealing therefore has become an intentional problem that must be addressed more deliberately and directly. God watches us. He can see when we are doing something wrong. He sees if you are stealing. Listen and you will hear Him telling you that you are doing wrong. So, we ask the question, why do people steal? Some people try to justify their stealing, but at the end of the day, there are still consequences for stealing.



Let us pray:

Dear Father in heaven, I ask for strength to stay away from thoughts of stealing. Help me to realize that if I ask, and wait, I will get whatever You desire for me. If I am hungry, You will help me to get food. If I have no money, You will provide the opportunity for me to get money. Whatever my needs, You will supply. Help me to trust that You will provide for me. These things I ask in Jesus' name, Amen.

Activity:

The words in column A all have to do with stealing. Match the words with their meaning in column B

	A	B
1	Bullying	i the crime of falsely making or altering a writing by which the legal rights or obligations of another person are apparently affected; the crime of falsely making or altering a document (such as a check)
2	Copy	ii to obtain money or property by fraud or deceit
3	Deceit	iii the crime of obtaining the personal or financial information of another person for the sole purpose of assuming that person's name or identity to make transactions or purchases
4	Forgery	iv a thief who picks pockets
5	Fraud	v a person who pretends to be someone else.
6	Identity theft	vi wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in financial or personal gain.
7	Impostor	vii to take or appropriate without right or leave and with intent to keep or make use of wrongfully
8	Pickpocket	viii an imitation, transcript, or reproduction of an original work, such as a letter, a painting, a table, or a dress
9	Steal	ix the act of causing someone to accept as true or valid what is false or invalid: the act or practice achieving one's goals through a web of falsehood
10	Swindle	x the use of force, coercion, or threat, to abuse, aggressively dominate or intimidate.