



Older IK Groups- 2nd - 5th Grades

January 29, 2025

Bible Story: Stealing- Exodus 20:15, John 12:1-8

Big Idea: We don't steal

The Win: Kids who can identify and take their next step of discipleship by embracing a preschooler's physical needs or engaging an elementary kid in things that interest them.

Wednesday Share:

Tonight during Impact Kids, we looked at Exodus 20:15 and John 12:1-8. God commands his people not to steal. Judas, one of Jesus' disciples, is the treasurer for the group. Instead of being responsible with the money, he secretly steals some for himself and then criticizes a woman who gives generously to Jesus, saying she's being wasteful. Help your kids see why stealing is wrong and replace a desire to steal with a desire to give generously.

Leader Devo:

<https://parkwaychurch.tv/blog/2025/01/22/jan-29>

Dig In to Prayer:

Ask God to help your kids have a stronger desire to give than to get.

Quick Tip:

When talking about God's Commandments, remember to keep your environment a judgment-free zone. That means if a child confesses he has stolen, make sure it's a safe place to share that without immediate condemnation. Instead, talk to the child separately about how God might want him or her to rectify the situation.

Wednesday Group Schedule

Leaders Arrive: 6:15 PM
Family Dinner: 6:30 PM – 6:50 PM
K-3rd Outside Play: 6:50 PM- 7:20 PM
4th & 5th Small Group: 6:50 PM- 7:30 PM
K-3rd Small Group: 7:25 PM- 8:00 PM
4th & 5th Outside Play: 7:30 PM- 8:00 PM
Dismiss: 8:00 PM- 8:05 PM

Low Energy Game:

Supplies

- small classroom objects (1 for every 10 kids)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

If you have a large class, consider dividing into groups of about 10 kids to play the game.

Sneak to Steal the Object

Say: Thieves are sneaky! In our world today, people sneakily find ways to steal people's information without them even noticing. Let's play a game where we'll sneakily take away something without a friend noticing.

- Have kids stand in a line along one wall.
- Choose one child to be the "Catcher" and stand about 10 feet away from the rest of the kids with his or her back to them.
- Place a small object from your classroom right behind the Catcher.
- The goal of the game is for kids to try to sneak up and steal the object without the Catcher turning around and tagging them. The Catcher can turn around only three times, though, so he or she must choose wisely!
- On "go," kids along the wall will decide when and how to try to sneak to the item. If a child is caught, he or she becomes the next Catcher.
- If a child successfully steals the item, the Catcher remains the Catcher for another round.

For an added challenge, play upbeat music while kids play.

Talk About It

Ask: How was stealing the object in this game like Judas stealing money from the disciples in our Bible story? How was it different?

Say: In our Bible story, Judas sneakily stole some of the disciples' money for himself!

Ask: When has someone sneakily taken something from you or someone you know without being noticed? How did you feel? Share a brief story from your own life to begin.

Say: We don't steal. Instead, God helps us live with integrity. The word integrity means "honesty." When we have integrity, we don't need to sneak around because we have nothing to hide. Our friends can trust us!

Talk About Video:

Discuss and Watch "Noah's Story"

Say: We're learning that we don't steal. But sometimes it's hard to know what's really stealing.

Ask: If you find money on the ground, should you take it? Explain.

Say: Let's see a story where that happened and two friends had to decide what to do.

Watch "Noah's Story."

Ask: What did you think about Noah's choices in this story? What about Jared's? How would it have hurt someone if Jared had kept the money?

Say: We don't steal. Even though Jared wanted the money, keeping it meant a kindergartener couldn't afford a book at the book fair. Taking from other people is selfish. Instead, we can give generously.

Deeper Bible:

Supplies

- Bibles
- uncooked angel hair pasta (1 noodle per child)
- ½-inch hex nuts, shown below (several per child)
- tape

Hoard Hex Nuts

Give each child a noodle of angel hair pasta. Set out a pile of hex nuts, and have kids arrange them so they're standing up on their sides, scattered around a table. Challenge kids to fit as many hex nuts as possible on the noodle without it breaking. Kids must get a hex nut onto the noodle by poking the noodle through the hole and picking it up, and they can hold only one end of the noodle. Allow several minutes for kids to try.

Ask: What happened when you tried to add more and more hex nuts to your noodle?

How is that like what can happen when we try to get more and more money or things?

Say: When people are focused on getting more and more, sometimes they end up stealing. And like too many hex nuts broke your noodle, stealing can break our relationships with God and others. That's why we don't steal.

Allow time for kids to mend the noodles with tape.

Say: With pasta, you can't put it back together once it's broken. Is that the way it is if you've stolen something? You can say you're sorry, but can you really fix it? What do we do if we've stolen something? Let's dig in to that.

Dig Deeper

Say: The Bible actually has a specific law about what to do if you've stolen something! Let's look at it together. As we read it, pay attention specifically to what you're supposed to do to make up for stealing.

Help kids turn to **Leviticus 6:1-6** so they can follow along as you read it.

Ask: What did you notice about what you have to do for the person you stole from? What about for God?

- If those are the consequences for stealing, why do you think people steal?
- If you have to pay back more than what you stole, how would you do that?

Say: If you've already stolen something, these verses tell you what to do—pay it back, plus extra, and make it right with God. Maybe you can't pay back what you stole with money, but you could pay someone back with time, with chores, or by saving up to pay the person back. The important thing is that you set things right with God and with the person you stole from, because we don't steal.

There's a guy who did this very kind of thing when he met Jesus. He was a tax collector for his job, and he was cheating people by taking more money than they really owed for taxes. When he met Jesus, listen to what he did.

Read Luke 19:8.

Ask: How did Zacchaeus make up what he'd stolen?

Say: Zacchaeus learned that we don't steal, or we need to pay it back plus more. And there's one other thing to know about if you've already stolen something.

Read Ephesians 4:28.

Ask: What are some things you can do instead of stealing?

Say: This verse says to stop stealing. We don't steal. Instead, we can use our hands to work hard and give generously. Being generous is a great way to refocus on giving, instead of trying to get more and more for ourselves.

Life Application:

Supplies:

- Bible

Pray Scripture

- Have kids hold out their hands.
- Read Proverbs 30:8-9.
- Read it again a few more times, pausing after each line for kids to repeat the prayer.

Wrap Up

Pray: God, give us generous hearts so that we don't steal. In Jesus' name, amen.

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.

Activity Page with a Point:

Younger Kids: Color a Coloring Page

Distribute the coloring pages and crayons. Say: One of God's commandments is that we don't steal. But Jesus' friend Judas broke that rule and stole money! Let's color Judas taking some coins. Allow time for kids to color.

Older Kids: Do an Activity Page

Say: We're learning that we don't steal. Unfortunately, even though God made that rule for good reason, Judas didn't follow it. It looks like someone stole something from these pictures! Can you figure out what someone stole?

Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Kids will circle the items that went missing in the second picture.

Ask:

- How easy or hard was it to tell what was missing?
- I wonder if Jesus and his friends knew Judas was stealing money.
- What would you do if you knew a friend was stealing from you?

Say: We don't steal. Instead, we give generously!

Answer Key: Older Kids

