

# **“FOOTSTEPS”**

Come, follow Me,” Jesus said

Mark 1:17

## ***Kingdom Kids***

The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20:15

The Eighth Commandment

***“You shall not steal”***

The Point: *Be givers, not getters.*

Children steal quite naturally, even though they know innately that stealing is wrong. It’s only when they are clearly taught the four simple words that God carved into stone ---“*You shall not steal*” -- that children begin to assimilate this value as their own. Robbery comes in various shades---cheating, defrauding, and borrowing something and failing to return it for example. God condemns them all.

God only asks us to refrain from stealing, but He also calls the Christian to earn money so that “*he may have something to share with those in need*” (*Ephesians 4:28*). In this lesson, the children will learn to focus on *being givers, not getters*. They can practice giving a tithe to the Lord and play a game to see how we can sometimes rationalize our actions. The children will come to understand that God says, “*You shall not steal,*” for very good reasons.

### **Who, Me? Steal?**

Count out five pieces of candy for each of your darling children. Read each of the following scenarios to your children and ask the questions following the scenarios.

Have the children repeat the commandment, “*You shall not steal.*” Then they can each eat a piece of candy.

Scenarios:

- Lisa wanted Kate’s bracelet that she found in Kate’s yard. She looked around and put it in her pocket, telling herself, “I’ll call Kate later and tell her that I found her bracelet. Lisa never called Kate. She only wore the bracelet to church. Kate didn’t go to her church.
- Derek borrowed his brother Michael’s backpack to take to their dad’s house for the weekend. When he was there, he ripped it by mistake, ruining it. When his brother complained, he just said, “I said I was sorry. Man, what am I supposed to do?”
- David forgot all about the spelling test. He just couldn’t get another D or he’d be grounded. When his teacher left the room, David stood up and looked at Lesil’s paper. She always got As. This time he did too.
- Lauren’s little sister always left her money lying around the house. Lauren found the five dollars that

her sister got for her birthday and put it in her own piggy bank. “I just found it lying around. She doesn’t care about it,” Lauren told herself.

### Questions:

- Has anything like that ever happened to you?
- How does that break God’s commandment, “*You shall not steal*”?
- What could the person do to *be giver, not a getter*?

After your children have discussed the last scenario, say: “God spoke four simple words in His Eighth Commandment: “*You shall not steal.*” God not only tells us not to steal, He also tells us all through the Bible to *Be givers and not getters.* As God’s special people, we need to be honest in all we do.

Encourage the darling children to save some of the candy to give a few pieces of candy to give away to a friend(s).

### Oops, I Just Borrowed It

(This works well if there are more than one child in your family,)

Have your child(ren) each draw a picture of a tree. Tell them to make the pictures the best they have ever drawn, but not to write their names on them. When they have finished, collect the picture, and show them to the class. Then randomly return the pictures facedown. Have your

children turn over the picture you gave them and sign their name on them, even though the pictures are not theirs. Then have the original artists find their own pictures and take them.

### Ask:

How did you feel when you saw someone else’s name on your picture?

- How was this experience like stealing?

### Say:

Pretend that something your borrowed is your own is also a form of stealing. Sometimes we simply forget to return things to people. God says, “*You shall not steal.*” This means that as God’s special people, we need to make sure that what we do can’t be interpreted as stealing. In learning to *Be givers and not getters,* we also need to be returners.

Turn you picture over and write a prayer telling God in what way you want to *Be giver not a getter* this week.

Have your children erase the incorrect signatures and write their own.

### Will You Rob God?

In this activity the darling children can learn that it’s never too early to learn about tithing.

Please print out the attached copy of a picture of one hundred pennies. Get a roll of pennies for this activity.

Give each of your children ten pennies.

**Say:**

Sometimes people steal from one another. Sometimes children steal from one another. There is someone who it is even worse to steal from.

**Ask:**

Every day, millions of people all around the world steal from God. Listen to what the prophet Malachi said in the last book of the Old Testament.

<sup>8</sup> *“Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.*

*“But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’*

*“In tithes and offerings.*

<sup>9</sup> *You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me.*

<sup>10</sup> *Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”*

*Malachi 3:8-10*

**Ask:**

How did the people rob God?

**Say:**

The people were robbing God by giving Him their leftovers. Everything we have comes from God. Can you imagine stealing from God?

Tell the darling children they will each get a chance to count their blessings from god by touching a penny for each thing God has given them.

Or

Have the children put a penny on top of the paper pennies for each thing the Lord has given them.

**Say:**

God wants us to *be givers, not getters*. God ask only for us to give back to Him ten percent (10%). That means for every ten pennies we have, He asks for only one penny back. That’s not much, is it?

Teach the darling children what ten percent is by using the number chart and pennies. Explain that ten percent is one penny from each row of pennies that they cover.

Let the older children figure out how much ten percent would be from a dollar, fifty cents, and so on. Then collect one penny from each of your children, and give it to the church fund. Commend the child who chooses to contribute more than one penny. Then have them place the rest of their pennies where they will know where the pennies are for keeps.

**Closing Prayer**

Encourage the children to express open, giving hearts by opening their hands slowly as they say this prayer with you. Pause after each sentence so the children can repeat it after you.

**Say:**

Dear Lord, my God, you give me everything I need and more. You give me food, clothes, and a family. You give me friends, a church and love. Please help me to never dishonor You by stealing. Help me to become a *giver and not a getter*. Help me to have open hands, not hands that sneak and take things. I want to be known as one of your special people. Thank you for making me one of your treasures. In Jesus' name, Amen.

