



A Year with the Catechism

(In preparation for next week.)

The Seventh Commandment

You shall not steal.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Bible Passages

In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you. [*Matthew 7:12*]

He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.
[*Ephesians 4:28*]

If a man will not work, he shall not eat.

[*2 Thessalonians 3:10*]

If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? [*1 John 3:17*]

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. [*Philippians 2:4*]

Do not forget to do good, and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. [*Hebrews 13:16*]

Weekly Catechism Reading

Sunday: Joshua 7

Monday: p. 105 – Central Thought

Tuesday: p. 105-106 – Part 78

Wednesday: p. 106-107 – Part 79

Thursday: p. 107 – Part 80

Friday: p. 107-108 – Part 81

Saturday: p. 108-109 – Part 82-End



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Devotion

Bible Readings

Exodus 22:1-14

Malachi 3:6-12

Ephesians 4:17-28

Devotion

Discuss various ways in which people steal from people and from God? When someone steals, what does that reveal about that persons' relationship with others and with God? In what ways have you been a thief? It is very difficult to confess with our hearts that we have stolen from others. For example: have you ever been given back too much change and kept it? Has a store ever forgot to charge you for something and you just thought to yourself, "It's their loss and my gain?" When you were trying to sell something, did you ever lie about it to get more money? Do you ever not give back to God in accord with the way He has blessed you? Have you ever goofed off at work or taken a longer break than you were allotted? If you answer yes to any of these questions, does that make you a thief? Stealing from God or our neighbor clearly reveals that we are not trusting in God to provide for our needs as we faithfully use the skills and abilities He has given us to work. The commandments are to help us be honest with ourselves and our sinful condition and they point to the fact that we need a Savior who will cleanse us of even our stealing. Thanks be to God for sending Jesus who bore the punishment for our sin and who forgives all who confess their sin and believe in Him. Jesus says to us, "Go and do it no more."

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for Your love and forgiveness in Jesus. Please help us to never steal but give generously to You and others and to trust in You to provide for our needs. Amen.