

Life Group Homework

For the week of November 13, 2016

QUICK REVIEW

- 1) Looking back at your notes from Sunday's teaching, was there anything that caught your attention?

MY STORY

- 2) Looking back at last week, what did you learn about guarding your heart?
- 3) Is there something you needed to shift to guard your heart better?
- 4) What was your takeaway from last week's study?

DIGGING DEEPER

Exodus 20:15

¹⁵ "You must not steal."

- 5) In the slavery environment the Israelites came from, their mindset was doing whatever they had to do to survive. At the base of Mount Sinai, God is giving them new guidelines for a healthy community. How does this commandment help them function?
- 6) Have you ever had something stolen from you, and if so, how did it make you feel?
- 7) How does stealing or theft of property affect the feeling of security people have in a community?

Exodus 20:16

¹⁶ "You must not testify falsely against your neighbor."

- 8) What do verses 15 and 16 have in common?
- 9) Why is false testimony about someone stealing?
- 10) While this commandment centers around the judicial system, there are other places in the Bible that speak to this issue. What other words do we use to describe giving false testimony about another person?

TAKING IT HOME

Proverbs 11:14 (ESV)

"Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a thing covered."

- 11) Referring to this verse in Proverbs, what do gossip and slander do? Why is it important for a person to keep a secret?
- 12) What are some ways Christians unknowingly gossip in the church?

Philippians 2:14-15 (ESV) teaches us this:

"Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world."

- 13) According to the verse from Philippians, what is the result of us doing everything without grumbling and complaining?

Looking back to last week, we discussed Proverbs 4:23 and the thought of guarding our hearts because life flows from it. In the following verses Jesus is again speaking about our hearts.

Matthew 15:18-19 (NLT)

"¹⁸ But the words you speak come from the heart—that's what defiles you. ¹⁹ For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander."

- 14) If our behaviors flow out from our hearts, does this imply that what we put into our hearts matters? If so, is there anything we need to stop filling out hearts with?
- 15) Why are gossip and slander so devastating to the people they affect?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Do Not Steal

"Thou shall not steal" seems like an easy commandment to follow, and I am sure most of us would say we are honest people in this area. As we review the Scriptures below, think about times in our lives when we may take advantage of a situation: using or taking something at the office that we really shouldn't; exaggerating on an expense report; maybe something regarding our taxes or shopping—we know the right thing to do but want to save a few dollars. How do these Scriptures impact you?

Job 20:19-22

"For they oppressed the poor and left them destitute. They foreclosed on their homes. They were always greedy and never satisfied. Nothing remains of all the things they dreamed about. Nothing is left after they finish gorging themselves. Therefore, their prosperity will not endure. In the midst of plenty, they will run into trouble and be overcome by misery."

Proverbs 11:1

"The Lord detests the use of dishonest scales, but he delights in accurate weights."

Ephesians 4:28

"If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need."

Do Not Bear False Witness

We are charged not to bear false witness against our neighbors. Christ challenges us to love and honor our neighbor. The people we interact with are our neighbors: friends, co-workers, etc. As you reflect on the Scriptures below in your Chair Time, how do you feel God speaking to you about interactions with those around you?

Proverbs 10:18

"Hiding hatred makes you a liar; slandering others makes you a fool."

Ephesians 4:31

"Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior."

James 4:11

"Don't speak evil against each other, dear brothers and sisters. If you criticize and judge each other, then you are criticizing and judging God's law. But your job is to obey the law, not to judge whether it applies to you."

Exodus: Journey of Revelation "Worthy of Trust"

Pastor Craig Sweeney

November 13,

Text: Exodus 20:15-16

"You shall not steal. ¹⁶ "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."

Revelation: The people of God will be trustworthy.

Story: Jacob and Esau (Genesis 25:19-34, Genesis chapters 27-34)

Key Points:

- I. The simplicity of the commandments override the complexity of circumstances.
- II. I walk with God first...then others.
- III. Being unworthy of people's trust will haunt me.
- IV. To walk with God is the REAL blessed life.
- V. A powerful dose of humility is a great deterrent to dishonesty.
- VI. It's time to break the family curse!