

Short Talk

(SHT023)

You shall not steal

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SHORT TALK: “YOU SHALL NOT STEAL!” (SHT023)

Aim of Short talk:	To encourage people to keep God’s command of “You shall not steal.”
Main themes:	Stealing, Ten commandments
Biblical references:	Matthew 22:39, Exodus 20:15, Romans 13:9, Ephesians 4:28
Props:	Table on top of which are two identical large bowls of water. Two bottles of blue food colouring.

Jesus tells us that we are to love our neighbour as we love ourselves.

- One of the ways we do that is by obeying the commandment that says:
- “*You shall not steal*”

(Stand behind table with 2 bowls of water on)

I want you to imagine that there is a really expensive large diamond sitting in the British museum.....

- it is probably worth about fifty million pounds.

One night someone breaks into the museum and steals it.

- That is stealing in a big way isn’t it? *(pour bottle of blue food colouring into one bowl)*

Now I want you to imagine that you are desperate for a Mars bar, but you are ten pence short,

- so you go to your mum’s purse and help yourself to a ten pence that you find there.

That’s stealing too isn’t it,

- even though it is stealing in a much smaller way? *(pour a couple of drops of blue food colouring into other bowl)*

Look at the water in my bowls.

- Does either bowl have completely clear water in it?
- Neither bowl has completely clear water.

You know sin is a bit like the blue food colouring.....

- sin messes up our hearts.

Even what we might think is a small sin will still make our hearts dirty.....

- a bit like the blue colouring changed the colour of the water,
- even when there was only a small amount of it – the water still went blue.

God tells us not to steal....

- and stealing is stealing whether we take something big or
- we take something small that belongs to someone else.

Stealing is sin and God says, “don’t do it,”

- because when we sin, we damage our relationship with Father God.
- We might think that no-one sees us and we have got away with it,
- but God sees what we have done and is sad.

I wonder if you have ever done any of these things and **NOT** thought of them as stealing?

- Borrowed something like a book or a DVD from someone and then chosen not to give it back because you wanted it.
- Taken something small from school or work like paper, stamps, pencils and so on.
- Bought something from a shop and the shop assistant has given you back too much change and you have kept it.
- Found a purse containing money and kept it.

God wants His children to be totally honest and not to steal what belongs to other people.

- Instead God wants us to share what we have with other people,
- and to be thankful for all that He has given to us.