

The Big Ten: Don't Murder, Steal or Lie

Exodus 20:13-16

1. Most of the Ten Commandments are stated in the negative, telling people what they should not do (Thou Shalt Not). Why do you think they are stated that way?
2. Pastor Mark explains that the sixth commandment is forbidding murder, not all killing in general. Why is that distinction important? In what ways can this commandment be misunderstood?
3. In what circumstances might it be appropriate to take another human life?
4. The Eighth Commandment says "Do not steal." Why is it important to honor and respect property rights?
5. Have you ever been the victim of theft? If so, what were the circumstances and how did you respond?
6. Why is it "stealing" to violate copyright laws and make unauthorized copies of music and movies?
7. The Ninth Commandment deals with "bearing false witness" or lying. Pastor Mark points out that this deals with all forms of lying, but is especially focused on lying under oath as a witness giving testimony in court. Why is perjury especially destructive?
8. Can you recall a time when someone told you a lie? How did you discover that it was a lie? How did you respond?
9. Pastor Mark suggests that one of the most destructive forms of lying is when we lie to ourselves. We tell ourselves "rational lies" in order to justify poor choices and bad attitudes. Can you share an example of this in your life or in the life of someone else?
10. Pastor Mark points out that external laws are important, but to build a truly good and noble life, we have to move from external laws to internal attitudes of the heart. That's why Jesus came. Why is it important to invite Jesus to help change our heart and mind, and not just focus on external behaviors?
11. What do you think it takes to become a person who doesn't just focus on following rules well, but instead learns to love well?
12. Obeying God's rules is one aspect of love, but is it possible to obey external laws and not really love God? What sort of habits and practices help you grow more loving toward God and others?