

UNIT THREE: HOW WE LIVE

LESSON 6: THE SEVENTH, EIGHTH, NINTH & TENTH COMMANDMENTS

CONTENTS OF LESSON:

1. THE 7TH COMMANDMENT reminds us that God gave the world's resources into the common care of all human-beings and for the benefit of all. Therefore we realize that:
 - i. We should use what we possess for the good of others too. [CCC2401-2405]
 - ii. People have a right to personal property, therefore we should not steal, (not even public property) cheat, underpay our employees, force prices up, evade taxes, overspend or waste. *(It is not stealing to take what is not in our possession in case of urgent necessity, when there is no other way to meet our basic need.)* [CCC2408-9]
 - iii. We must care for the environment. [CCC2415]
 - iv. We should share what we have with those in need. [CCC2443-49]
2. THE 8TH COMMANDMENT tells us that:
 - i. God is the source of truth, hence we, his children, should be true in word and action. [CCC2465,2468]
 - ii. This means that we should 'put away' all 'falsehood': lies, false witnessing, slander, flattery, boasting, making fun of others etc. [CCC2475-87]
 - iii. Jesus spoke up for the truth at the cost of his life. We too must be witnesses to Christ, who is the truth. [CCC2471-74]
3. THE NINTH & TENTH COMMANDMENTS ask us to turn our eyes (our desire) away from things of earth. We give up greed and envy. Instead we seek God and his will. The 10th Commandment is a summary of all the commandments. [CCC2534, 2541]
4. *We seek the help of the Holy Spirit to keep our gaze fixed on heaven rather than desire things of this earth.*



REFERENCES: Genesis 1:28,29; John 8:44; 18:37; 1John2:15-17; Eph 4:25; Col3:2.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts; Bibles; 3 chocolates, large enough to divide.

I. STARTER:

- Today we are going to look at all the remaining Commandments. The Seventh Commandment talks to us about our relationship with 'goods' or 'things'. Let's look at how different people relate to things, for example, to a chocolate.

[The following act is done without words, and with the actions over-emphasized:]

Two students come up to a person who places a chocolate in one student's hand and shows by signs that it is for both of them to share.

The receiver unwraps the chocolate and throws the wrapper on the ground. He then counts the portions and shows the audience the total using his fingers. He then orders the other student to wipe his shoes for him, then to dust a chair for him. Finally he sits down and gives one piece out of the 8 to him with great condescension and show. He then gobbles down the rest. The other student watches hungrily.

Another pair of students comes up to the person and as before, one of them receives a chocolate. The receiver looks at the chocolate and puts it into his pocket. The other student then points out to something and when his attention is caught, extracts the chocolate from his pocket and runs off.

A third pair comes up and, as before, one receives a chocolate, and is shown that it is for both. The receiver nods his head and then shows it to the other. They both go to a bench and sit down. The receiver unwraps the chocolate, throws the wrapper into a dustbin and then they share it equally. They look happy and at ease.

II. DEVELOPMENT:

- This act shows us what the Seventh Commandment has to tell us. Can you figure out what the different actions in the act mean for us?

[Students discuss and then share their ideas. Bring out:]

1. The man showed by signs that the chocolate was meant for both the people. This brings out an important truth which we can find in the Bible. *[Read Genesis 1:28, 29 aloud.]* God gave the world and all in it to all human-beings, not just for a privileged few. This means that what we have is meant to be used for the good of all. This is God's will.
[Write on the blackboard: THE WORLD IS FOR EVERYONE.]
2. The chocolate was put into one person's hands. God does not put possessions into the hands of certain people. This means we do have a right to personal property. However, we have to understand that what we 'possess' is really God's. We are only stewards or caretakers. We have to use what we have according to God's instructions.
[Write on the blackboard: WHAT WE POSSESS IS REALLY GOD'S.]
3. The first person divided the chocolate unfairly. Some people think that whatever they have is for themselves alone. They use their wealth to get others to serve them, but don't even give them a proper share of God's gift to them.
[Write on the blackboard: WHAT WE POSSESS IS MEANT TO BE SHARED.]
4. One person stole the chocolate from the other. The 7th commandment tells us that it is wrong to steal from others. We should not steal public property either. (However if we take something when there is an urgent need, and there is no other way of getting it, it is not wrong. E.g. If you take food to save yourselves from dying of hunger. *[See CCC2408]*)
[Write on the blackboard: WE SHOULD NOT STEAL.]
5. The last person who received the chocolate shared what he had. There are some people who share what they have received with others. This brings peace and joy and is very pleasing to God.
[Write on the blackboard: SHARING BRINGS JOY.]
6. The last person put the wrapper in the dustbin, but the first one did not. The environment also belongs to everyone, so we cannot just spoil it. We are supposed to take care of it. This also means that we do not waste or spoil the world's resources.
[Write on the blackboard: WE MUST TAKE CARE OF THE WORLD.]

- Apart from stealing and failing to share with the needy, there are other ways in which we could fail to keep God's commandment: deliberately keeping borrowed goods; evading taxes, under-paying employees, destroying public property, over-spending.

[Give out handouts and ask different groups to select one of the case-studies given. They share or demonstrate in the form of a dialogue what they would say to the person concerned. Remind them to give good reasons and bring out the points discussed above (written on the board). After the presentations, students fill in the points in the space provided in the handouts.]

- Let's look at the Eighth Commandment. It tells us about the importance of truth. Read the Bible passages given and answer the questions given.

[Students work on the second section. As they share their answers, bring out:]

1. Jesus came into the world to testify to the truth, to give the truth to the world. He also said, "I am the Truth." Pilate asked Jesus if he was really a king. If he had answered, "No" he could have been released. But Jesus would not lie, even at the cost of his life. He cannot lie, because he is the Truth. God expects his followers to be like him, to stand up for the truth, and be witnesses of Jesus, even if it is tough. Many Christians have faced death for the sake of Christ.

2. The devil is the 'father of lies' according to Jesus. When we are tempted to tell a lie, we know who is telling us to do this.
 3. We must put away falsehood. This means: telling lies, giving false witness (saying someone did something when he didn't OR vice-versa), slander (speaking ill of others) flattery (false praise) boasting, making fun of others etc.
- Let's look at the last two Commandments. *[Read them aloud.]* Both these Commandments talk about 'coveting'. This means wanting, or desiring. In other words, what does your heart love? What are you looking for in life? Read the two passages and answer the questions.

[Students work on the third section. Bring out:]

1. 'Loving the world' here does not mean loving the people of the world! It means loving money, gadgets, movies, food, clothes, respect of others etc. All these things are good, but we should not seek them with all our hearts.
2. So we should give up GREED and ENVY.
3. According to St. John, those who do the will of God will live forever.
4. 'Set your hearts on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.' This means we must desire God above all else, and look towards heaven, rather than use all our energies for things that will pass away.

III. INTERIORIZATION/PRAYER:

- The Tenth Commandment covers all the others. If our hearts are set on God, we will love and honour him. We will not steal, because 'things' are not important to us. We will become more and more like God, because we want him more than anything else.
- Today we must look at our hearts and ask ourselves: What is my heart set on? What do I desire most of all? Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a heart for God.

[Students spend some time in silent prayer.]

HOME ASSIGNMENT:

⇒ Read the handout. ⇒ Share what you have learnt with your family.

⇒ Prepare for the test by revising all the matter in the handouts.

Learn the quotes too.