

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



PRINCE
OF PEACE
Called to Connect



You've Been Robbed

August 12 & 13, 2023

Most of us, when we think of stealing, think of it in terms of stealing property, money, or other possessions. That is a valid definition, for sure. But this weekend, we will explore stealing on a deeper level - The kind of stealing that has the power to rob us not just of our stuff, but of our passion and purpose.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: EXODUS 20:15 & MARK 12:30

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

Today, we're covering the seventh commandment—Thou Shall Not Steal. Seems simple, right?

But when we talk about stealing and only talk about stealing stuff, we miss the deeper implication of what God is saying. Jesus defines “the greatest commandment” in Mark 12:30 and lists four deeper gifts that we have been given. These valuable gifts are stealable, and are not as easily replaced as material possessions. So stand guard.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Pastor Jason lists three reasons why we steal: to guard against scarcity, to jockey for position, and to attain power. Share about a time you have stolen, or been stolen from, for one of these reasons. As a group, brainstorm other motivations for stealing.

Every person has been given heart, soul, mind, and strength to love God. But they can be stolen.

- ***Our heart drives us; it is our passion.*** Share about what it looks like in your life when you lose your drive or passion. Who or what steals it? How do you get it back?
- ***Our soul is the vital source that connects us with God. It is stolen when we assign ultimate meaning to penultimate things like power, government, and our jobs.*** What are some things that you are tempted to put ahead of God in your life?
- ***Our mind is that logic driven, argument-making, idea-generating part of our total self.*** How do you love God with your mind? How have you been tempted to let logic separate you from God?
- ***Strength is the sum of one's influence, resources, and wealth.*** How do you use your influence, resources and wealth to love God? What keeps you from using ALL your strength for God? Share one specific example of a time you misspent your influence, resources, or wealth.

The good news is that the God that we worship is a God of abundance who is able to renew, restore, and reconcile all that has been lost. Share about a time that God made “all things new” for you.

CHALLENGE: When you don't feel fully secure, continue gathering for worship, participating in communion, and praying the prayer God has given us to acknowledge your current brokenness while staying focused on your future hope.