

# God's Good Rules

## Lesson 11

### Commandment 10

**"Do Not Covet**

**"Be Content with what God  
Blesses you with"**

"

**Lessons from the Bible: Exodus 20:1-17**

*"Be Content with what God Blesses you with"*

**Review Commandments 1-4:**

- The first 4 commandments teach us how to respect and honor God.  
Do you remember what they are?
- Put God first
  2. No fake gods
  3. Respect God's name
  4. Respect God's day of rest

**The last 6 commandments are how we are to treat ourselves and others.**

**Last time we learned Commandment 9. Do you remember what it is?**

- 5. Honor your father and mother
- 6. Do not Kill
- 7. Keep your promises
- 8. Do Not Steal
- **9. Do Not Lie**

**Today we have another lesson on how to treat others:**

We are on Commandment 10 today!

Read: Exodus 20:17: **“You must not covet your neighbor’s house. You must not covet your neighbor’s wife, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.”**

- When we are content, we can have happy relationships with God and with others.

### **Open in prayer**

The first thing we need to understand when studying this commandment is, **what does covet mean?** *(Allow students to answer.)*

- To covet means to want something selfishly, without caring about what others think or feel.

Let me say this right at the beginning of this lesson: it is perfectly fine to want things. It is **not** okay to want something so much that you think about it all the time or may take it from someone else or be jealous of someone who has what you want. ***Coveting is being jealous for what others may have.***

Now Exodus 20:17 lists a few different things that we may jealously want. Look at the verse and tell me what things it tells us we must not covet. *(Allow students to answer.)*

The verse lists our neighbor's house, wife, male or female servant, ox, donkey, or anything of our neighbor's. So, this verse lists some things that most of us probably don't have. I don't have any servants or oxen lying around. But it ends by telling us to **not covet anything that belongs to our neighbor.** And remember, our neighbor is not just the people who live in the houses right next to ours. Anyone we meet is our neighbor. So, we must be careful to not jealously want anything that anyone else has.

- That sounds really difficult, doesn't it?

Some people may even wonder, what's the big deal? Are we really hurting anyone by wanting their stuff?

**The problem with coveting is that it is a sin that happens in your heart.** No one can see where coveting starts except you and God. But whatever happens in our heart is what leads to other sins.

Mark 7:20-23 says: *And Jesus said, "The things that come out of a man are the things that make him unclean. <sup>21</sup> All these evil things begin inside a person, in the mind: evil thoughts, stealing, murder, <sup>22</sup> selfishness, doing bad things to other people, lying, doing sinful things, jealousy, saying bad things about people, pride, and foolish living. <sup>23</sup> All these evil things come from within a person. These things make a person unclean."*

It is like a little seed, buried deep in our hearts, which will grow like a weed and turn into other sins. For example, if you want something so bad that it makes you jealous of a friend, you may lie or steal to get what you want. There is even a story in the Bible of an evil king who coveted a field and murdered the field's owner so he could have it. (1 Kings 21). Coveting leads to other sins.

- Of course, even if you never lie or steal or kill when you jealously want things, coveting is still a big problem.
- Remember, the Ten Commandments are divided into two sections. The first four commandments are about how we can have a good relationship with God.

**The last six commandments are about how we can have good relationships with our neighbors.**

- When we covet, when we want something so bad that we think about it all the time, we stop thinking of our neighbors how we should. We focus on their stuff instead of focusing on how we can love them best. We cannot respect and love our neighbor when we are focused on wanting their stuff.

Like we said, coveting is a sin that happens in the heart. It does not start out as something we do, but as something we feel. Only God can see what is in our hearts. And when we covet, God sees that we are not content with what he has given us.

- Think about it. When we want **more** and **More** and **MORE**, it tells God that what he has given us is not good enough. When we focus on what other people have, we forget to thank God for what we have. That is a big problem, because God has given us so much!

### **Let's Read Ephesians 5:5:**

*"You can be sure that no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God. For a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world."*

If we worship the **things of this world**, we cannot worship God. Coveting means stuff is more important to us than God. When we covet, we cannot respect and love God like we should. So, we can see that coveting hurts our relationship with God and with our neighbors.

- What are some things we can do to help us not covet? How can we protect our hearts from wanting more and more and more, and from being jealous of other people's stuff, when the world tells us that that's okay, and even a good thing? Well, of course, the Bible the answer for us.

**Let's look at Hebrews 13:5.** *"Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, 'I will never fail you. I will never abandon you.'"*

We can trust God more than money. Money won't last forever, but God promises to be with us always. So, we can be happy with what we have.

### And in **1 Timothy 6:6-8:**

*"It is true that serving God makes a person very rich, if he is satisfied with what he has. When we came into the world, we brought nothing. And when we die, we can take nothing out. So, if we have food and clothes, we will be satisfied with that"*

There is no point in being greedy and trying to have as much stuff and we can, because none of this stuff is coming to heaven with us. We should be content with what we have.

When we are happy with what we have, we won't be jealous of what our neighbors or friends have and we won't make an idol of stuff instead of worshipping the one true God. **When we are content, we can have happy relationships with God and with others.**

## Remember Philippians 4:11 –

*"I am telling you this, but it is not because I need anything. I have learned to be satisfied with the things I have and with everything that happens."*

Now before we start our craft, I want to explain one thing: **treasure is not necessarily a bad thing. It's okay to really, really want things. Just make sure you are wanting the right things!**

Matthew 6:19-21 says:

*"Don't store treasures for yourselves here on earth. Moths and rust will destroy treasures here on earth. And thieves can break into your house and steal the things you have. Store your treasure in heaven. The treasures in heaven cannot be destroyed by moths or rust. And thieves cannot break in and steal that treasure. **Your heart will be where your treasure is.**"*

Be sure to store up your treasures in heaven, by loving God and obeying him!

End in prayer.

## 10 Commandments in simple terms.

1. Put God first
2. No fake gods
3. Respect God's name
4. Respect God's day of rest
5. Honor & Obey your parents
6. Do not kill people
7. Respect marriage – Keep promises
8. Do not steal
9. Do not lie
10. **Do not be jealous**

**Bible Verse** Psalm 119:1-2: "Joyful are people of integrity, who follow the instructions of the Lord. Joyful are those who obey his laws and search for him with all their hearts."

## **Activities: Practice "The Ten Commandments Boogie Song"**

Video: The Ten Commandment Boogie:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2hB5Gqo8Vo>

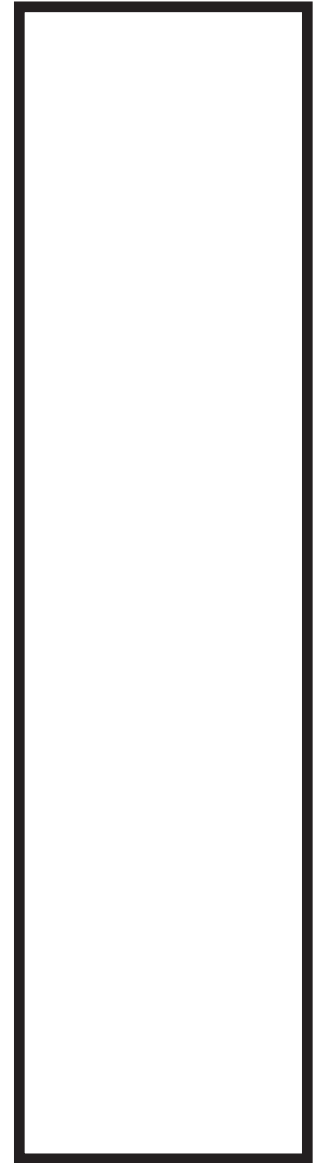
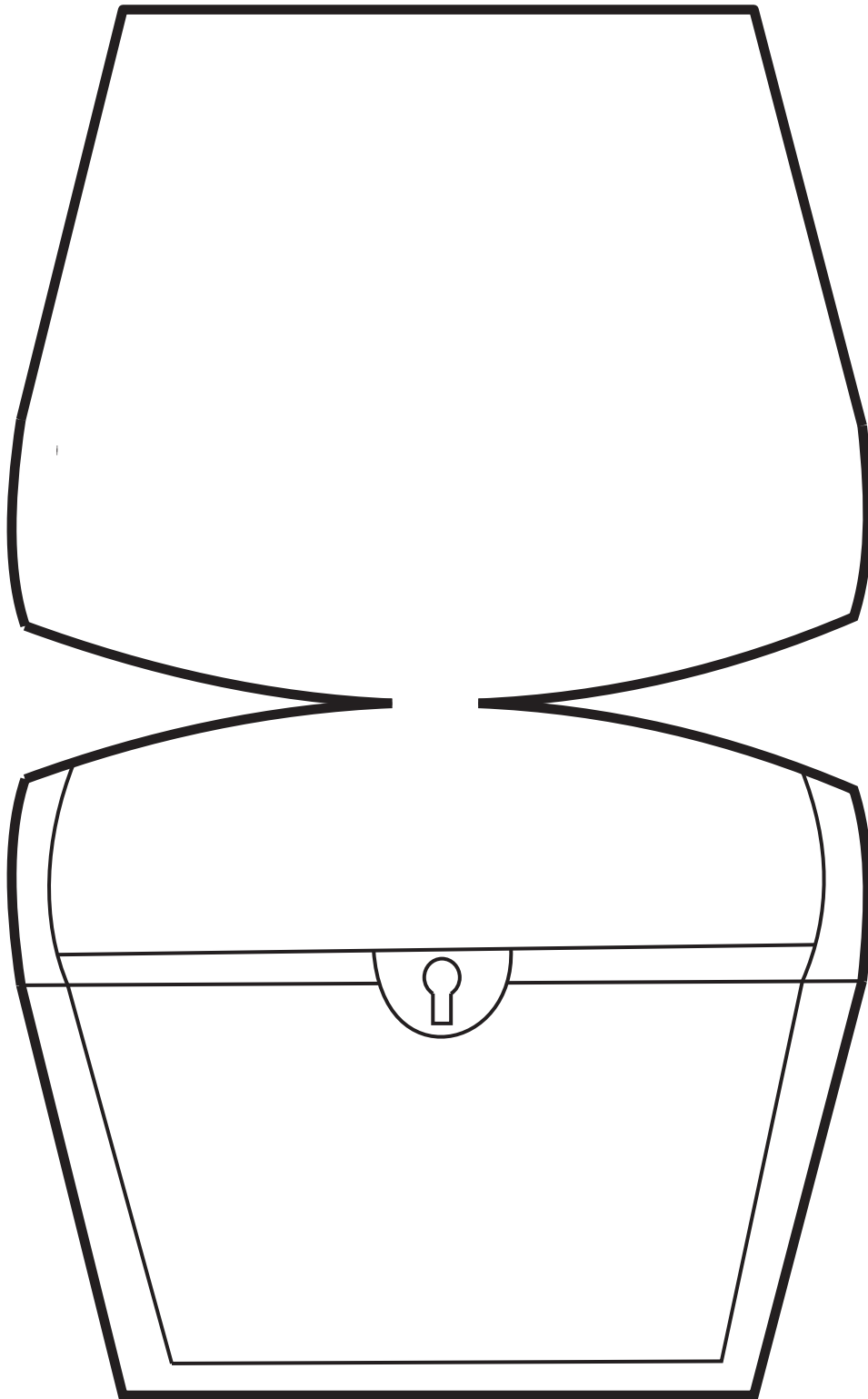
Video: Larry Boy and the Emperor of Envy

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MaTtMD\\_CZY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MaTtMD_CZY)

## **Craft: Heavenly Treasure Chest**

Have students cut out the treasure chest (along the bold lines) and decorate the inside and outside any way they wish. Fold the treasure chest in half, like a greeting card. Cut out the long rectangle and accordion fold it, back and forth. Glue the bottom square of the folded rectangle to the inside of the treasure chest card, to the blank back side. Cut out and glue the Bible verse onto the top of the accordion folded rectangle. When the card is closed, it will press down the verse. When students open up their treasure chest, the Bible verse should pop out at them. \*\*see next page for cut out\*\*





*My treasure is  
in heaven!  
Matthew 6:19-21*

Feel free to take a picture of their art work or share how your activity went!  
Post it on our Facebook page or share it on GroupMe. Have a Blessed Day &  
Week! Until we can meet again

~ *Teacher Chrissy*

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