



Don't Be Greedy

6

FOR THE LEADER

Aim

To help the Junior Soldiers understand God's law concerning covetousness. During this session the Junior Soldiers will:

- memorise the tenth commandment;
- realise that being envious of other's possessions can lead to many wrong actions;
- recognise that they need God's help to be content with what they have;
- believe that God will supply our needs but not expect Him to supply our wants.

Bible Base

Genesis 13:5 – 18

Exodus 20:17

This session is the last in the series on the Ten Commandments and considers God's law about covetousness or envy.

To covet is to wrongfully want something which is not rightfully ours. Some think it does not matter how envious they are of another's belongings, providing they do not take them; but envy is wrong in God's sight.

Coveting:

1. shows a dissatisfied spirit;
2. leads to grumbling and complaining;
3. sometimes results in theft as with Achan (Joshua 7).

When tempted to be discontented because of what we do not have, we should aim to think about what we have, and thank God for it. A cheerful, contented boy or girl can greatly help to keep a home happy, especially when times are hard. We should learn like Paul to say, 'I have learnt this secret, so that anywhere, at any time, I am content, whether I am full or hungry, whether I have too much or too little.' (Philippians 4:12)

We may think of 'coveting' in terms of greed. However to covet is more than to be greedy. It is a desire to possess something that belongs to someone else. All of us have had that deep, deep feeling that starts with a wish and can grow, if we allow it, to become an obsession. This commandment says that we are not to desire the possessions, status, appearance or reputation of others.

The Jews ask 'Who is wise?' The answer, 'He who is content with what he has.'

It is important to remember that we don't want to stifle the motivation and determination most children have to do their best and improve themselves. However Junior Soldiers need to begin to understand that success should come as the result of honest achievement and hard work, never at the expense of others.

Today at a glance

Section	Timing	What you need
Tuning in • Envelopes. OR • 'Deal or No Deal' game.	5 - 10 mins	➤ Have ready enough envelopes so you have one for each Junior Soldier. Inside will be a slip of paper stating what the prize is. (It is exactly the same.) Try to vary the size and shape of each envelope so that one appears to be better than the others. OR ➤ Prepare the envelopes and prizes for 'Deal or no deal' if you choose this game.
The main thing • Coveting. • Learning stations. • Bible story. • What should I do?	1 - 2 mins 5 - 10 mins 10 - 12 mins 2 - 3 mins	➤ A Bible. ➤ Leader's Kit 3:6 cut up ready. ➤ Have the definitions written up ready for your group to read together. ➤ Be familiar with the Bible story.
Tying it in • Revision and wrap up. AND/OR • 'Do it God's way' rap. • Activity sheets.	1 - 2 mins 1 - 2 mins 1 - 2 mins	➤ Leader's Kit 3:1 (1) from session 1 and the activity sheets. ➤ Be familiar with the rap if you choose to use it. ➤ Make sure you leave sufficient time to do the final summary and have it written up for the Junior Soldiers to see. ➤ Enough copies of activity sheets 3:6(1) or (2) with the rap from activity sheet 3:6 (3) on the reverse side.

PROGRAM

Tuning in

1. Have the prepared envelopes (see 'Today at a glance' for details) placed in a bag or pillow case ready to use.

Invite each Junior Soldier to pick an envelope from the bag without looking. Emphasise that they must not open it until you say so.

Allow the Junior Soldiers to look at each other's envelope and try to guess what each might have won.

Then select some Junior Soldiers to swap envelopes with anyone they choose. Some Junior Soldiers may decide not to swap – but if they are approached by another Junior Soldier they must swap.

Do this swapping several times until there is a feeling that one or two envelopes are

especially desirable. THEN open the envelopes and have the Junior Soldiers share what they have won.

All, of course, will receive the same prize. Some may complain that the game was not fair, at least they should ask why they all received the same prizes.

Stress the fact that they assumed that some prizes were different or even better because the envelopes were different or bigger – but nobody said they were better.

Or

2. Play the game 'Deal or No Deal'. Have two individuals or two groups depending on your group size with an envelope each. A leader can have an envelope too. They can then decide to keep their envelope or trade it for a better prize (but it may not be). Have the rest of the group cheer them on and help them decide what to do. After they have traded for a while they keep the envelope and open it. They discover the outcome (a good or bad prize). You could have prizes such as Freddo Frogs, a piece of string, a Mintie etc. The risk is they will not get a good prize at all.

It's very easy to assume that what someone else has is better than what we have. If we think like this all the time, we can become very greedy, very miserable and unhappy. We call this coveting. God wants us to be happy, so this is why His tenth law says we are not to covet.

The main thing

Coveting

In the game we just played some of us wanted to trade what we had because we thought that we would get something better. Such a feeling often comes to us when a friend gets something new that we haven't got. It can be such a strong feeling that we can even start to plan how we can get it. We can become grumpy and hurt others because we can think of nothing else, but how to get this object for ourselves. God says that this is coveting, or being greedy and that we are not to do it. He made this the tenth commandment. Read Exodus 20:17 together several times.

Learning stations

Place the three cut out parts of Leader's Kit 3:6 around the room at various sites. The Junior Soldiers in small groups (3 - 4) each with a leader go to the various stations and discuss the stories, noticing how easy it is to feel envious rather than content.

Now the groups come together and discuss the definitions of 'covet', 'unselfish' and 'content'. (*Show these definitions for your Junior Soldiers to read and then discuss.*)

- To covet is to desire or badly want something that isn't yours.
- To be content is to be satisfied with what God has given you.
- To be unselfish is to be willing to share the good things that God has given you.

Bible story

(*Use Genesis 13:5 - 18 as your resource.*)

Abram, whose name was changed to Abraham later, had moved at God's command from his home in Haran. His nephew, Lot, travelled with him. Both Abram and Lot had been very successful and their flocks of sheep and herds of cattle had grown so much that there were too many people and animals trying to live off the same piece of land.

Lot's men and Abraham's servants began to fight over the water and grass. Abram called Lot and said, 'We are members of the same family. There shouldn't be fighting between us. Look, there is so much land. You decide which side of the land you want. If you choose the land to the left, I'll go to the right. If you decide you want the land to the right, I'll go to the left.'

Lot looked out over the land and noticed that the best land was toward the east. It had plenty

of green grass and water. So Lot chose the best land.

Just as he had promised, Abram took his family and herds and moved in the other direction.

- How did Lot behave?
- Was Abram foolish to let Lot have his choice of the land?

No! God was pleased with Abram's unselfish attitude and said to him, 'Look all around you. All the land you can see, I will give to you. Your family will prosper and your descendants will be so many that it will be impossible to count them all.'

Lot chose to take the best land for himself. Abram trusted God and gave up his right to take the best.

- Which man did God bless?
- Who actually made the wisest decision?

The secret of being unselfish is to be satisfied or content with all the good things that God gives us. When we trust Him to give us what is best for us, we don't need to worry about taking care of 'number one', because God will take care of us and give us everything we need.

What should I do?

This commandment, like the others, is given to us to help us live our lives happily without wasting time by wishing we had other things. Next time you find feelings of anger or envy rising up inside you because you feel that life is unfair to you, try to think about the things you do have and thank God for them.



Tying it in

1. *(Have Leader's Kit 3:1 (1) from session 1 displayed. Go through the six commandments they have been learning. Fill in the final commandment, 'Do not covet your neighbour's possessions' and Junior Soldiers do so on their own individual activity sheets. These can be taken home at the end of this session.)*

As we have looked at the last six commandments we have seen that they do not apply to our actions only, but to the thoughts and feelings which control our conduct. Jesus summed up the Ten Commandments by saying that the greatest command is to 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

God's great remedy for evil thoughts and feelings is to love Him and others. If we love Him with all our powers, we shall want, above everything else, to please Him by keeping the first four commandments which teach us our duty to Him.

And the second great command is to 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.' (Mark 12: 30, 31)

If we love our neighbour as ourselves, we will never harm them. This will help us keep these six commandments, which teach us our duty to one another.

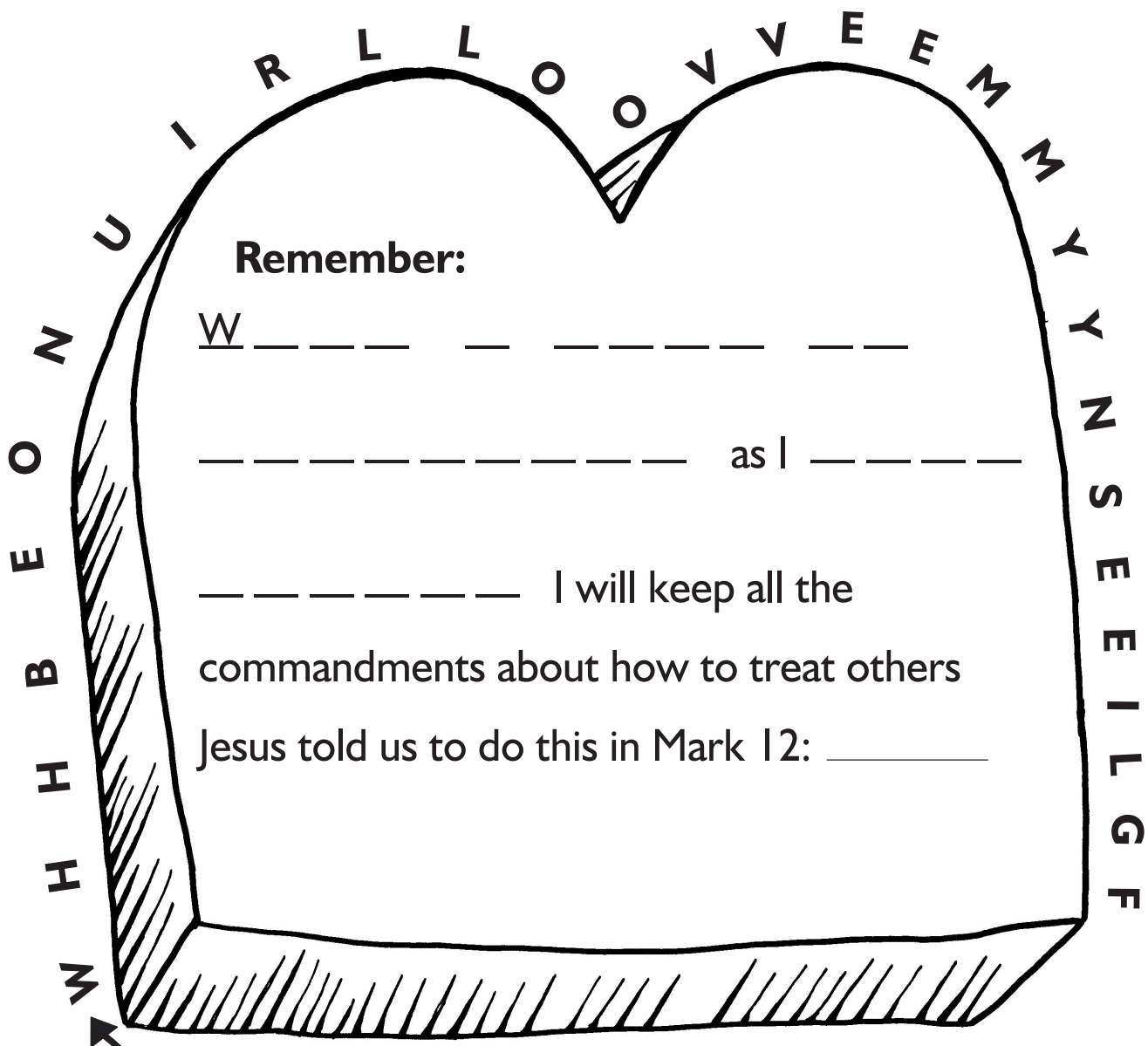
The Ten Commandments help us to keep our Junior Soldier promise. By keeping the commandments, we are being God's loving and obedient child and will be helped to 'live a life that is clean in thought, word and deed'.

And/Or

2. Teach the Junior Soldiers the rap on activity sheet 3:6 (3).

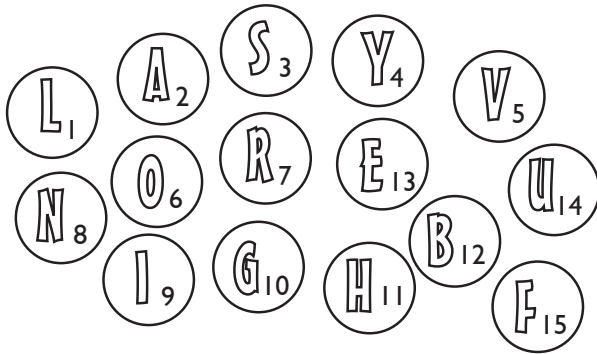
Don't Be GREEDY

Fill in the missing letters by using every second letter around the tablet.
Cross them out as you go and go back to the beginning and go around again. (The first letter is written in for you.)



Start here The 'W' has been written in to help you start.

IT'S SIMPLE REALLY



1 6 5 13 4 6 14 7
 8 13 9 10 11 12 6 14 7
 2 3 4 6 14
 1 6 5 13
 4 6 14 7 3 13 1 15

Read Mark 12:28 - 34 and find out who said this _____
 and in what verse you can find it. v _____ .

Discuss and decide

God told us not to covet because wanting what other people have:

- | | |
|---|-------|
| * makes us greedy | T / F |
| * makes us miserable | T / F |
| * makes us envious and even spiteful | T / F |
| * is the only way to get ahead in the world | T / F |

Is it right?

If I keep this great commandment,
 I will keep the six commandments
 we have been studying.

Apply the test to check it out.

(Put a tick or cross in the box.)

If I love others as I love myself, I will:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ❖ respect my parents | ☐ |
| ❖ not murder | ☐ |
| ❖ not commit adultery | ☐ |
| ❖ not steal | ☐ |
| ❖ not lie | ☐ |
| ❖ not covet other's possessions | ☐ |

When someone does something better
 than me, God says: T / F
 I can walk away to sulk T / F
 I can kick the ground for ten minutes T / F
 I can congratulate them on winning T / F
 I can beat them up on the way home T / F

Don't Be GREEDY

Do it God's Way

A rap adapted from 'do it right' by David MacGregor

All Got to do it right – do it God's way!
Here are God's rules to obey each day!

Group 1 One – God says, 'Worship me alone;

Group 2 Two – don't idolise things you own;

Group 1 Three – use my name respectfully;

Group 2 Four – rest each week and remember me.

Group 1 Five – love and respect your mum and dad;

Group 2 Six – murder's out, taking life is bad!

Group 1 Seven – married people be faithful to the end!

Group 2 Eight – don't steal from foe or friend.

Group 1 Nine – never lie about anyone;

Group 2 Ten – don't envy people or their fun.

All These are God's rules to obey each day,
It's great to live life in God's own way.

Taken from 'Religion in Life' Teachers' Book cycle 3 part 2 for ages 10 - 12.