

not hinder others for our own financial benefit. We are to image Christ ...*who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, who despises the gain of oppressions, who shakes his hands, lest they hold a bribe, who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed and shuts his eyes from looking on evil, (Isaiah 33:15)*

#### Discussion Questions

- If personal gain is not necessarily wrong, what's so bad about fraud?
- Have you ever wondered if Jesus was a fraud? Do you believe He will really provide the salvation He offers?

#### **Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse**

We have a mighty God who meets our every need and gives generously out of the riches of heaven. As stewards of God's resources, when we hinder ourselves or others in their wealth and estate we are stealing what God intends for them. More than that, we are stealing from God Himself (who owns all things), and robbing ourselves of His blessings. *Malachi 3:8–9 Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you.* We do not give God the glory He deserves when we act in ways to hinder others, to defraud them, to withhold wages, to use deceitful ways, to overcharge or over collect, to neglect providing for those in our care. This too is part of the 8th commandment, thou shall not steal. We dare to rob God of the glory He is due when we break His commands. And yet.. We serve a gracious God whose kindness and mercy are unsearchable. We need not steal any longer because all the riches of Christ are available to those who believe. Let us serve Him with humble gratitude. *The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace (Numbers 6:24–26).*

#### Discussion Questions

- Why should God forgive someone who has stolen from Him?
- How does the gospel help us seek the good of others and not just ourselves?

# Baptist Catechism

## Family Worship Guide



### West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, April 13th, 2025)

#### Baptist Catechism Question #80

**Q:** What is forbidden in the eighth commandment?

**A:** *The eighth commandment forbiddeth whatsoever doth or may unjustly hinder our own or our neighbour's wealth or outward estate*

#### Suggested Memory Verse

*1 Timothy 5:8 [8] But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. (ESV)*

### Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The eighth commandment clearly condemns robbers breaking into a jewelry store, but in a broader sense it also forbids anything that would unjustly *hinder* the wealth of ourselves or others. One of the many ways we could hinder wealth is by simply not providing for our family or others in need. Our memory verse this week says... *[8] But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever* (1 Timothy 5:8). Can you imagine a father not providing for his family? What if he was able, but out of laziness or selfishness he chose not to work and earn money to pay the bills? What if he did not provide food or shelter to those who depend on him? Christians are called to provide for their family and to neglect this responsibility denies God's command. This can also apply to others around us whom God has put in our care. God has blessed us, so we should in turn help others, not hinder them. *Proverbs 3:27–28 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it. Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come again, tomorrow I will give it"—when you have it with you.* If you have the ability to help someone prosper, then do it. Don't let laziness, selfishness, or neglect cause you to hinder someone else's estate. As God's steward, it is not your job to withhold what He intends to provide.

#### Discussion Questions

- If God tells you to provide for someone and you don't, how is that stealing?
- If "unjustly" hindering someone's wealth is forbidden, is there ever a time when hindering wealth might be "just"?

### Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

A second way we could hinder others' wealth or estates is by withholding what we owe to them, either in wages earned or other promises made. *James 5:4 Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.* It is not right for somebody to work and then to be paid less than agreed upon or even to be unnecessarily delayed in getting paid. It causes unjust hardship for that worker. Leviticus 19:13 says, *You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning.* They might not be able to pay their bills or debts, they might not be able to eat, they may not be able to provide for their family the basic needs. It definitely hinders their wealth and estate, and it can have a domino effect on others down the line too. Deuteronomy 24:15 makes it clear that withholding wages is a sin: *You shall give him his wages on the same day, before the sun sets (for he is poor and counts on it), lest he cry against you to the LORD, and you be guilty of sin.* Holding on to something after it is supposed to have been given, is stealing.

#### Discussion Questions

- Do you pay what you owe people promptly or do you tend to stall or try to get out of paying altogether?
- What about your tithes? Are you intentional about giving to the Lord in a timely manner?

### Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Taking more than someone rightfully owes is another form of stealing. We see this in the example of Zacheus, a rich tax collector who was profiting off the people unjustly. Luke 19:8 shows how after salvation he wanted to rectify the situation: *And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold."* Zacchaeus wasn't the only one lining his own pockets, either. In Luke 3:12-14 Jesus was teaching and proclaiming the Gospel to all kinds of sinners. *Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."* You see, sinful man is easily tempted to advance himself at the expense of others, but when you collect more than you should or when a government worker defrauds others, it is wrong. Extortion, fraud, unfair practices, and unjust laws can hinder others and we are to have no part in it. *Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them* (Ephesians 5:11).

#### Discussion Questions

- Have you ever been tempted to take more of something than you were supposed to? What did you do?
- Why do you think Jesus told the tax collectors and soldiers to stop sinning? Is that the gospel? Why or why not?
- Why do you think Zacchaeus wanted to pay back what he had taken?

### Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Another way that we are tempted to hinder others' wealth or estate is through fraud—that is, any wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in financial or personal gain. Taking shortcuts and doing inferior or shoddy work to save yourself money and time but still charging the full amount, that's fraud. There is bank fraud, mail fraud, credit card fraud, spreading a false report, false witness, and many other ways to deceitfully defraud others. The Old Testament speaks of false weights as a kind of fraud. Micah 6:11 says, *Shall I acquit the man with wicked scales and with a bag of deceitful weights?* What if the store has a scale to weigh fruits and vegetables but secretly puts extra weight underneath the scale so when you buy 1 lb of bananas, the scale shows 3 lbs and charges you three times as much? The Bible calls that kind of deception an abomination. *A false balance is an abomination to the LORD, but a just weight is his delight* (Proverbs 11:1). God is true and just, and he delights in just weights. Christians are to conduct ourselves in a way that is fair and honest and does