



Coveting

OBJECTIVE

To help groups understand that we are not only to refrain from scheming to obtain our neighbor's possessions, spouse and loyalties; we are to help them keep what belongs to them.

FOCUS THIS WEEK

We are commanded not to covet our neighbor's relationships or possessions. So what? What does this mean in a world where people conspire to entice each other's friends, loyalties and possessions away? Helping kids discover how their desires can ruin their lives is a great angle to take with this theme. Attempting to distinguish healthy dreams and desires from those that become covetous is the key. Don't let anyone leave this session without being confronted by this truth: We are commanded not to tempt or coax anyone away from their friends or their spouse. God's people are not to scheme to take anything away from their neighbors.

FAITH5 SMALL GROUP TIME



SHARE highs and lows to set the stage for a more open and meaningful discussion. Pair group members up one-on-one to share the best and worst things that happened this week. After a short while, return to small group and invite each person to share their partner's highs and lows. Encourage youth to write their personal highs and lows, those of their partner, and a short prayer on their FAITH5 Small Group Time Handout.



READ and highlight the theme verse, Exodus 20:17, in your Bibles and circle key words. A musical version of this Scripture verse can be found at www.faithink.com, FINKlink TC09.



TALK about how the Bible reading might relate to today's highs and lows. Supplement your discussion with some of the following.

A. IMAGES IN WORDS AND ART

Take a look at the theme art and cartoons. What do you see in the art? Ask youth where they are in the art. How might the art and the theme verse apply to your group highs and lows today?

B. ROLE PLAY

1. A friend says: "If I'm not number one in my sport I feel miserable and I'm out to get whoever is ahead of me. Is there anything wrong with that?"

2. Your friend appears to have everything: looks, good grades, money, a great family. You start to become aware that you are jealous. What do you do?

C. QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. What was the last thing you really wanted but couldn't possess? Accept and affirm all thoughtful answers. Share your feelings about something you really wanted but couldn't get. Ask the kids how they felt.

2. When might wanting something badly be good? Accept and affirm thoughtful answers. Remind everyone that wanting something badly can be good when we work honestly for it.

3. How might coveting and cheating someone be related? How might coveting and gambling be connected? Coveting might lead you to look for a way to cheat someone out of rights, property, or other things. Gambling is based on coveting—the desire to get something that doesn't belong to you from someone else. Many consider it harmless. It can become a dangerous addiction.

D. QUOTATIONS Ask youth to choose a quotation and share their thoughts and questions about it.

E. TERMS OF THE WEEK Review these key terms and write definitions.

Covet: To want something that belongs to someone enough that we plot to get it.

Envy: Desire for the possessions or qualities of another.

Jealousy: Resentfulness of something another person has.

Scheming: Plotting or planning to cheat someone out of what is rightfully theirs.

Tempt: To try to lure someone into doing something that is wrong.

F. GROUP BUSINESS

1. Servant Event Idea: Write to the state lottery or gaming commission and voice your thoughts about lotteries, gambling and other forms of entertainment that offer false hope to those with the least amount of income.

2. FAITH5 Home Huddle: Encourage youth to take a few minutes for FAITH5 with their families each night at home, using the FAITH5 Journals or the Home Huddle Handout.

G. WRAP UP Summarize the event with your group, assigning someone to share what you learned at closing.

- One new thing we learned today
- One thing we already knew that is worth repeating
- One thing we would like to know more about
- The highest highs and lowest lows which our group will bring to the closing prayer



PRAY for one another. Praise and thank God for your highs. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you in your lows. Include your friend's highs and lows in your prayers. Toss a newspaper into the center of the group or invite youth to think of something going on in the world that calls for prayer. **Tip:** Gather in a circle. Hold hands, lock arms or go shoulder-to-shoulder to bond your group!



BLESS one another by name. Trace a cross on each hand or forehead. Look them in the eyes and give them a smile. As for their blessing as well!

