

July 3, 2022

Count to Ten

Important Info

Study Help

Along the way, you might consider these beneficial additional resources.

The first resource is Jen Wilkin's book "*Ten Words to Live By*." Copies of this book can be purchased before or after Sunday services at Connection Central.

The second resource is a free online commentary that can be found at <https://bit.ly/3slhfjx>



Friendly Reminder

Don't let your familiarity with the Ten Commandments prevent you from thinking deeply about what they mean in the life of the Church, and in your life specifically.

Important Dates

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| June 1-July 27 | Summer Reading Club |
| July 9-15 | Student Mission Trip |
| September 23-25 | LG Leader Retreat |

Additional information for these events and more can be found online at LegacyChurch.org

Scripture Memory (optional)

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's. - Exodus 20:17 (ESV)

Exodus 20:17 & Acts 2:42-47 & Philippians 4:10-13

Opening

Do you remember being covetous as a child? If so, what was it that you absolutely had your mind set on?

When was the last time you coveted something? If you feel comfortable sharing, what was it that you coveted? Would you say that you are normally a covetous person? Why or why not?

Would you say we live in a covetous area of the world? Why or why not?

What, if any, is the difference between desire and covetousness? Why do you answer that way?

Bible Study

The Moody Bible Commentary states that "*The corruption of sin is in the heart before it is in the actions. 'Covetousness has a psychologically degrading effect upon an individual (Davis, Moses and the Gods, 220). 'It takes away contentment and rivets one's attention on acquiring earthly and temporal toys rather than the heavenly and eternal treasures.'*" Do you agree or disagree that covetousness has a psychologically degrading effect on people? Why or why not? Have you ever considered the psychological ramifications of our sin? Where else do we find the concept that sin starts in the heart and not just in our actions? Can you think of a time in recent memory that illustrates sin originating in your heart before your actions? As you feel comfortable, share with the group what that sin was, what caused it to express itself, and how you sought to move forward.

After reading the progression of the tenth commandment, where do you find yourself most susceptible to covet: material items, relationships, or circumstances? Why is that?

"Covetousness and contempt hold hands, for no one ever sought to take from God or neighbor without first desiring to diminish them," Jen Wilkin says. She continues by saying *"We have seen it in the story of Adam and Eve, who covet what is God's alone. We have seen it in the subsequent story of Cain, who covets what is his brother's. In both of those stories, no human witnesses could be raised to testify to the sins of desire that preceded the sins of action. But there was one who bore witness. The God who sees bears witness to every sinful desire. The tenth word reminds us that the conclusion of what we understood at the outset: there are no gods before God. It is God who bears witness to our compliance to the tenth word. Long before our covetous desires take the visible shape of words or deeds, Yahweh bears witness against us."* After reading this quote by Wilkin, what is your initial reaction (agree, disagree, frustration, conviction, etc)? Why is it important to see the connection between the first and the tenth commandment? If you were telling the story of Adam and Eve, or Cain and Abel, how would you describe to children the covetousness of their attitudes and actions? Why is it important to share such stories with children? Why is it important to recall them as adults?

Consider Acts 2:42-47. How might the story of the early Christians be different if they were led by covetousness instead of generosity? How is generosity and contentment the opposite of covetousness? Do you believe the modern Church is content and generous? Or do you think the Church is covetous? Why do you answer that way? How can you help others in the Church reject covetousness and grow in contentment?

Paul, in Philippians 4:10-13, stated twice how he found victory over covetousness. What is it that helped Paul (*in and through Jesus, Paul LEARNED to be content*)? Why must contentment be learned? Where have you seen contentment grow in your own life? Where would you like to see growth?

What have you most enjoyed about the Count to Ten series? What is it that you learned through this study that has made the most difference in your life?

Closing

This week consider all of the areas (such as material items, relationships, or circumstances) where you are holding an attitude of covetousness. Share those areas with God, asking for opportunities and strength for learning contentment.