

Cultivate Reflection Guide

OLD RULES for a NEW LIFE | You Shall Not Steal
Pastor Matt Brown | March 11-12, 2023

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We're on a journey to reimagine the 10 commandments as the rules and rhythms for a new life that God invites us into as we follow His Son, Jesus Christ.

Our Reflection Guide is a tool to help you grow spiritually wise, relationally kind and emotionally healthy. Use it to reflect and respond to the weekend message as you cultivate personal spiritual growth, lead your community group discussion or start a conversation with a trusted friend as you grow together. Pair it with your bible, a journal or any resource that helps you learn. *It's not about getting through the content, but getting the content through you!*

Don't Minimize the Sin of Theft

Read: [Exodus 20:15 NIV](#)

Dig Deeper Opportunity: [John 10:10 NLT](#), [2 Corinthians 8:21 NLT](#), [Isaiah 26:7-8 NLT](#)

Reflect: Theft is bigger than the loss of material possessions. There is a significant cost to the loss of honor, joy, peace, opportunity, recognition or reputation. Have you ever experienced the "theft" of something you couldn't tie to a dollar amount? What did that cost you?

Live it Out: Where in your life do you need to practice kindness and generosity? Count the cost of your words, attitude, choices and even expectations of self, God and others. Ask the Holy Spirit to hold you accountable to being a person of integrity – which no one can ever steal from you – then, listen, watch and follow His lead.

Work is Worth its Weight

Read: [Ephesians 4:28 NLT](#), [Proverbs 21:25 NLT](#)

Dig Deeper Opportunity: [1 Corinthians 15:58 NLT](#), [Psalm 37:5 NLT](#), [Proverbs 16:3 NLT](#)

Reflect: The easy way is rarely the best way. How has working through something difficult made you a stronger, wiser person? This could be a difficult choice, conversation or circumstance.

Respond: Desire, dreams and vision are profitable, but not if they postpone the actual work. Is there anything you're currently putting off or procrastinating because there is hard work involved? What obstacles – whether real or perceived – are standing in your way?

Cultivate Truth: Choose one of the dig deeper verses above. Pray that verse over those obstacles, and commit your work to God, trusting that He goes with you. Identify a step, even a small one, that you can take today.

Teach Them...

Read: [Colossians 3:23 NLT](#)

Dig Deeper Opportunity: [Psalm 78:4-8 NLT](#), [2 Thessalonians 3:10-13 NLT](#)

Reflect: Who in your life taught or modeled the value of work and service? How has their influence impacted the way you work and serve, whether at home, with family, in your workplace, classroom, community, etc.?

Respond: When we serve, we do so for God and the good of His kingdom. How are you or how could you use your time, talents, and treasure to serve God? If you're serving now, what blessings have you experienced?

Live it Out: We need to teach the next generation to offer their best SO THAT they make the world better. Who in your life will you influence and encourage to use their talents and strengths to serve God?

Cultivate Prayer: Jesus, thank you for your commands that are as true and powerful today as when they were written. Search my heart and show me anywhere I'm minimizing or justifying stealing from myself, you or others. I want to be a good steward of everything you've given me. Instill in me a desire to live with integrity, practice generosity and serve your kingdom with a willing and cheerful heart. Amen.