

Respecting Truth and Property

Chapter 43 Summary

Chapter Learning Objectives

- The participants will explore how the Seventh and Eighth Commandments serve as guides for developing trusting relationships.
- The participants will examine the Tenth Commandment and recognize the damage that bearing false witness against another person can cause.
- The participants will consider the consequences when tempted to lie or steal.

Content Summary

1. The Seventh Commandment, “You shall not steal,” forbids theft, or taking someone’s else’s property.
2. Property includes both tangible (physical and touchable) property as well as intangible property. Intangible property is sometimes called “intellectual property”—music, ideas, or someone’s answers on a test.
3. Restitution is restoring someone’s rightful property by returning it or, if it was damaged, by repairing it.
4. The unjust use of the earth’s resources is another form of stealing and is a violation of the Seventh Commandment. This Commandment calls us to share our resources with others, and not to use more than our fair share of the earth’s resources.
5. The Tenth Commandment is, “You shall not covet your neighbor’s goods.” The phrase *to covet* means “to desire.” The Tenth Commandment forbids an unhealthy desire for wealth, power, and the good things that others have. This Commandment reminds us to be thankful for what we have.
6. The Eighth Commandment, “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor,” forbids false gossip about someone, or even spreading the truth about a person if that truth damages that person’s reputation. (Of course, reporting abuse or bullying to the proper authorities or to a trustworthy person is always the right thing to do.)
7. The Eighth Commandment also forbids any kind of lie or untruth, and obliges that we make reparation.
8. Telling the truth does not mean sharing private information that could hurt another person. However, if a person’s safety or well-being is at risk because of a secret, it is necessary to seek out a caring and responsible adult to help that person through a tough or dangerous situation.
9. In the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, a priest is obliged to always keep secret everything confided to him. If anyone inadvertently overhears a confession, that person is obliged to keep that confession secret also. This obligation also applies to someone (a translator, for example) who may help another make a confession.

(All summary points are taken from *The Catholic Connections Handbook for Middle Schoolers, Second Edition*. Copyright © 2014 by Saint Mary’s Press. All rights reserved.)

