






Small Group/ Reflection Notes

03-11-2024		10:8 – You shall not steal	
 Start	<input type="checkbox"/> What has been the highlight of your week?		
 Discuss	<input type="checkbox"/> When have you had something stolen from you? What? When? How? <input type="checkbox"/> How did it make you feel? What were the consequences for you? Others? <input type="checkbox"/> Why do people steal? <input type="checkbox"/> Do any circumstances justify stealing? If so, what? Why?		
 Read	<u>Exodus 20:1-15</u>	 Listen again	ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Watch
 Explore	<input type="checkbox"/> v.15 : Why is so universally accepted? Why was it necessary to include such an obvious statement in ‘the 10’? What turns this from a <i>command</i> into a <i>promise</i> ? <input type="checkbox"/> How/ why is a desert a tough place to survive in? After escaping the Egyptian Empire oppression, Moses and the Israelites wandered in the desert. What pressures would this have placed on individuals/ households? What might they have been tempted to do? What impact would this have had on the community? <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 16:3-5 : What did the Israelites do (v.3)? How did God respond (v.4-5)? What was God teaching them? Matthew 6:11 : How do you apply this? <input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians 4:28 : How can <i>work</i> be God’s provision? What does it also enable? <input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 4:19 : Why do we like/ claim this verse? What’s its context v.10-19 ? <input type="checkbox"/> Malachi 3:7-10 : How can we steal <i>from God</i> ? What does this say about ‘our’ wealth/ possessions? If you hand me £100, saying ‘put £10 on your neighbour’s electric prepayment meter and can keep the rest’, but later discover I spent all £100 on myself, how would you feel? Whose money was it? <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 10:9-10 : Is it stealing from <i>workers/ self-employed</i> if we don’t pay a real living wage or fee for the work done? Why? Leviticus 19:13 : What about not paying bills on time? Did you know we are an accredited Real Living Wage employer ? #LivingWageWeek 4-10 Nov. <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 25:14 : Is it stealing from <i>home buyers</i> to hide defects/ faults when selling a property? Why? <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 22:15-22 : Is it stealing front <i>the State</i> to under-report income/ over-inflate costs when paying tax? Why? What are the consequences?		
 Go further	<p>The legacy of slavery - reparations</p> <p>To end slavery, in 1833 the British Government compensated the Slave OWNERS £20 million financed by a long-term loan (equivalent today of £17 billion; back then it was 40% of the total Government Budget or 5% of GDP.) This debt was finally paid in 2015 – just 9 years ago. Owners used it to purchase country estates that we today visit on our days out; build up huge investment funds...</p>		

	<p>No compensation was ever paid to the millions of people who were enslaved: taken against their will, transported in chains from West & Central Africa to the Caribbean & USA, and forced to work on plantations, controlled by the British State and Missionary Organisations.</p> <p>Then we pulled out, made ourselves look like the good guys by telling everyone we ended slavery, and left millions of people destitute and whole nations lacking in infrastructure, education...</p> <p>We all know how evil the Holocaust was: millions of Jews, as well as Gypsies, the disabled, LGBTQ+, religious minorities.. were exterminated. You only do that when you convince yourself that these are less than people – less than us.</p> <p>Imagine if the Holocaust camp guards all withdrew, the gates were unlocked and the survivors were released from their chains, only for them to discover:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compensation was being paid to the guards/ Nazi regime for ‘their loss’ 2. Little or nothing was being done to help survivors rebuild their lives/ nations... <p>This is what we collectively as Britain did.</p> <p>None of us today were alive then, we didn’t make the decisions. But we have all continued to benefit financially from it, we’ve all had a share in the prosperity e.g. education, higher standards of living, inheritances, properties, pensions...</p> <p>It’s no coincidence that the slave-owning nations (Britain, USA, Spain France, the Netherlands) have all prospered, whilst Caribbean nations and, far more so, African nations, have struggled.</p> <p>When someone is found to have stolen what belongs to others, we expect them to apologise <i>and to pay it back</i>. We call that <i>justice</i>.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 5:23-26: Does this apply only to individuals? Can it apply to nations too? What, if anything, does this have to say about reparations for Colonial slavery?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Luke 19:1-10: What had Zaccheus been doing? Why do Empires do this? How had this oppressed so many? What happened to open Zaccheus’ eyes to oppression? Could he just have issued a ‘statement of regret’ or even apologised? Instead, what did Zaccheus commit to doing? What, if anything, does this have to say about reparations for Colonial slavery?</p>
 <p>Reflect</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Which one verse stands out to you? Why do you think it grabs your attention?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Which verse(s) will you need to think more about? Why?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> What one thing will you do differently?</p>
 <p>Do</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Find out more about the real living wage/ Living Wage Foundation. https://www.livingwage.org.uk/ #LivingWageWeek 4-10th November 2024</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Explore further the issue of reparations.</p>
 <p>Pray</p>	<p>Pray for one another.</p>



My questions:

*If you're not yet in a small group, why not join one! Check out: ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/SmallGroups
Can't see a group to suit your availability/interest? Start one! SmallGroups@ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk.*

Chester Road Baptist Church, Chester Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B73 5HU
☎ 0121 350 2779 ✉ office@ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk 🌐 ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk

Chester Road Baptist Church is a Registered Charity (No 1134180) and a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain