

Company

IS IT OK? STEALING



GET INVOLVED



30 MINUTES



READY
TO GO

AIM

Is stealing ever justified? Or is it always wrong whatever the situation? Is stealing £100 and stealing a penny sweet the same thing? Explore these questions and more with this 'Is It OK?' activity.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

> 'Is it OK? Stealing' Discussion Sheet

GET INVOLVED: IS IT OK? STEALING

THEME: SHAPING OUR WORLD



LEADER PREPARATION

A leader will need to have a copy of the 'Is it OK? Stealing' discussion sheet. Read through the scenarios and questions beforehand, to familiarise yourself with the topics and potential debate points.



[Download 'Is it OK? Stealing' Discussion Sheet](#)



GETTING INTO THE ACTIVITY

This activity aims to explore the topic of stealing and purposefully asks difficult questions, using some 'grey areas', to challenge young people to consider stealing, its impacts and what is the 'right thing to do'.

Stealing Scenarios: Sit down as a group and go through the stealing scenarios on the discussion sheet. For each one, have a chat about what the group would do. Are the group in agreement or would different people approach things differently?

Example: There's a major boxing match being streamed online. It's £30 to pay to view it, but you've found a link that lets you watch without paying. What do you do?

Discussion Questions: Having been through the scenarios, move on to looking at the discussion questions. These explore questions such as when is stealing, stealing? Why might we not always do the 'right thing'? and how does our stealing impact others?

What Does the Bible Say? Finally take a look at what the Bible has to say about stealing. Does / should being a Christian impact what we view as the 'right thing to do' and our inclination to do it?



DID YOU KNOW?

- In 2019/20, there were approximately 2.07 million theft offences recorded by police forces in the United Kingdom.
- There are roughly 1000 shoplifting offences reported each day. That's over 350,000 a year.
- 52% of reported shoplifting offences go unpunished.
- A study has found over 40m people 'borrow' a Netflix password.
- One in twenty Brits (5%) have shoplifted as an adult, and 23% have stolen an item as a child.



IDEAS TO TAKE THIS FURTHER...

Take one of the scenarios, or create your own, and make it into a court case. Have a defence and prosecution team. Let each team think about their arguments and then present them to a 'judge'. Have a vote on what the most suitable punishment (if any) should be.

IS IT OK? STEALING

Ask the group to consider each of the scenarios below. Take each one individually and have a group discussion, trying to be as honest as you can with each scenario. Try to highlight any contradictions or differences between answers as you go along. Encourage young people to ask questions of each other too.

- 1) You are walking across the camp field when you see a £2 coin lying in the grass. It has just been camp bank and the coin is on the way from the bank to the tuck shop. What do you do?
- 2) You pay for something in the shop with a £5 note. The cashier gives you change from a £10 note. What do you do?
- 3) There's a major boxing match being streamed online. It's £30 to pay to view it, but you've found a link that lets you watch without paying. What do you do?
- 4) A mate can get you cheap trainers from where he works. You can have them for about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the price they sell them in the shop. No questions asked. What do you do?
- 5) You have a working Netflix account, but you notice Netflix don't seem to be charging your bank account. It must be an admin error somewhere. What do you do?

Group Discussion Questions

Here are some questions to discuss as a group. Try to allow discussion to play out between young people, however be prepared to get the discussion going or throw in some controversial questions / arguments to help explore the topic fully.

- Ask the group if in any of the scenarios, their action could be classed as stealing?
- What would the 'right thing to do' be in each case? If we know that, why might we do something different?
- Scenario 3 & 5 both involve you watching online content without paying. The boxing you are purposefully doing, but with Netflix you intended to pay but the money isn't leaving your account. Are both scenarios as bad as each other? If you know Netflix aren't charging you properly and you've done nothing about it, how is this any different from purposefully stealing the boxing stream?
- Can you rank the scenarios in order of how serious the issue is from least to most?
- What are the impacts of stealing? Pick out a couple of the scenarios and consider how our 'stealing' might have impacted other people? (directly or indirectly)
- Are there degrees of stealing e.g. is it worse to steal £20 than £5? Is stealing a £60 Xbox game and a penny sweet the same thing? Is stealing, 'stealing' whatever the amount?
- Can you think of an example where you have been tempted? How did you overcome the temptation or did you succumb to temptation?

What Does the Bible Say?

You must not steal. **Exodus 20 v 15**

Riches gained by doing wrong have no value. But right living will save you from death. **Proverbs 10 v 2**

People do not hate a thief when he steals because he is hungry. But if he is caught, he must pay back seven times what he stole. It may cost him everything he owns. **Proverbs 6 v 30-31**