

**Theme: Stop, Thief!**

Stealing is taking possession of things that do not belong to you, including property, money, goods, immaterial time, wisdom, fame and status among others. Stealing runs counter to God's honesty and righteousness; it also runs counter to God's requirement for us to "Love our neighbors as ourselves". Therefore, God's commandment strictly prohibits us from stealing. (Exodus 20:15; Lev. 19:11; Deut. 5:19; Matthew 19:18; Mark 10:19; Luke 18:20; Romans 13:9) The apostle Paul also warned us: "Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need." (Ephesians 4:28)

**Reflection**

- Am I reporting my taxes honestly every year?
- Up until now have I ever cheated on an exam?
- Do I respect the intellectual property rights of others?
- Am I petty and look to get things on the cheap?
- Am I able to differentiate what belongs to God and what belongs to Caesar?

**Renew**

- The law of service in this world has always been the law of the jungle, always been stealing, always to destroy. Paul reminds readers of the book of Romans: Don't imitate this world (stealing), Instead, change your mindset and become a new person.
- Jesus said the thieves came to steal, kill, and destroy; I came to save the sheep and enrich their life. Renewed life can be obtained only in Christ Jesus. I want the Lord to renew my spiritual life every day.

**Prayer Requests**

- For the individual: One year is coming to an end. All those who made a wish to God at the beginning of the year, repay it quickly while there is still time.
- For the body: There are still brothers and sisters in distress and suffering both physically and mentally. I would like to use prayer to support them and help them.
- For the Church: I hope that all churches in trial will show bravery and repel the whole army of the Gentiles.
- For the current situation: Pray for God to stretch out His arm and intervene in the troubled world, to make righteousness like a flood of water, and fairness like a surging river.