

Chapter 11

A Generous Spirit

Be rich in doing good. Be generous and willing to share.

1 Timothy 6:18

For the Parents:

In chapter 11 your child learned to:

- Choose specific ways to care for his or her possessions and the goods of the earth
- Show respect for others' possessions
- Explain how greed can lead to stealing and cheating

For most, the commandments not to steal and not to covet “thy neighbor’s goods” are not issues. Yet, many can identify with mounting debts and the struggle to find the means with which to pay them. Evolving technology, media ads, and the overall societal “need” to have what is new have encouraged our desire to possess things. More from desire than from necessity, we pile up material things. What often happens, however, is that we spend most of our time working to pay for the things we own and have little time to enjoy them. The things end up possessing us instead of our possessing them. The seventh and tenth commandments go beyond forbidding the actions of stealing and coveting. They challenge us to look at our lives.

With Your Child:

1. Make a list of household items. Label them *Mine*, *Yours*, *Ours*, See if you can find a good way to share the work of caring for the ones labeled *Ours*. Make some mini-posters to remind everyone to help take care of family belongings. Here is an example: *There is a place for everything. Put everything in its place.*
2. Read about Jean Donovan on the Review and Explore page.