

Small Group Study Guide – **Member Guide**

For the weekend of 9.19.2010

Exodus 20.17 & Joshua 7:10-26 – Want what you already have

Introduction

This weekend at the Summit we are working through the 10th commandment, “Thou shall not covet ... anything that is your neighbor’s.” This is the only of the “neighbor” commandments that directly addresses a condition of the heart rather than an outward action. In fact, a covetous heart can lead to all kinds of destructive behavior, including breaking many of the other commandments. And while this is often a private sin, the bible tells several stories that show it’s disastrous effects on a community. Achin’s story from Joshua 7 is one such example.

Note: The small group study guide is designed to work in partnership with the weekend message. So each week you should work through this guide, take notes during the sermon, and come prepared to discuss both of these in your group.

Break the ice

If you had a \$5,000 gift card that you could use at any one store, but only one, where would you go? What would be the first thing you buy?

Dig Into the text

Read Exodus 20.17 and look over any notes you have from the sermon. What challenged you from the sermon?

Coveting is an inward condition rather than an observable action. Why do you think it’s included in the Ten Commandments? What are some signs that you or someone you know is maintaining a covetous spirit?

In what ways can/has harboring a covetous spirit affect your relationship with God?

Read Joshua 7:10-26. Israel has just defeated Jericho (by a miracle from God), but was commanded to leave all of the spoils of victory. What do you think motivated Achin do commit this sin? Why was this such a severe offense against God?

How did Achin's actions affect the whole community? How can covetousness affect your relationship with others, even if you never act on it?

Apply it to your life

What has this series on the Ten Commandments shown you about the significance of being in Biblical Community?

What are you coveting right now? What are you hoping that the object of your affection will do for you? How can the gospel set you free from this misdirected desire?

Prayer Guide

Philippians 4:11-13 – The Secret of Contentment

Take time in your personal study and then as a group to pray through this vision of our future as disciples of Christ. In praying through this passage pray the following:

- Pray for contentment in your current circumstances.
- Ask God for strength to face the challenges.
- Declare to God that He is worthy of your devotion and trust.
- Ask God to remove the things in your life that you treasure more than him, and declare to him that he is the ultimate treasure.