



"It Takes A Thief"
#8 – 10 Commandment Series 

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PUPPETS

1. Ripley
2. Thief
3. Rusty
4. Tala
5. Judge
6. Mom

PROPS

1. Full Stage
2. Backdrop
3. Painting
4. Watch
5. Headphones

SOUND

1. Ripples Theme
2. Commandment 8 song – “Thou shalt not steal”
3. Gunfire
4. Sirens
5. Alarm
6. Pink Panther Theme – Cut 1, Cut 2
7. Christian Rock – Cut 1

ACT I

Music: "Ripples Theme"

Ripley: Good Morning Kids! I can't hear you. Good morning kids! Does anyone remember what commandment we are doing this week? That's right, commandment number 8 – "thou shalt not steal".

Music: "Commandment # 8 – Thou shalt not Steal"

A long time ago, God gave us His commandments and He told us not to steal. Today we live in a world that gives us entirely new ways to break the laws of God. You have to be on your guard so that you remain faithful to the Commandments of our God. It's easier than ever for us to do the wrong thing and not even realize it.

Let's see how the Ripples kids are doing shall we?

Music: Pink Panther – cut one.

Scene: Thief creeps up. Goes back and forth – finally stopping in front of a painting on the wall.

Thief: Muhaha. This painting will bring me thousands of dollars on the black market. Me and the little thieves at home will be eatin' well for the next year.
Now, if only I can just get this off the wall without setting off the alarm.

Sound: Alarm – then a pause and then Sirens.

Thief: Great! Just great! Now what am I going to do? The cops will be here in no time.

Cop Voice: All right! We know you're in there. We have the place surrounded!
Come out with your hands up!

Thief: I just can't go back to jail. What will all the little thieves and Mrs. Thief do without me? They'll starve.

Cop Voice: I'm counting to three and then we're coming in!

Thief: Good luck copper! You'll never take me alive!

Cop Voice: One... Two... Three...

Sound: Gunfire

Scene: Thief ducks down and Rusty comes up slowly – with headphones on – rockin' out to the music.

Music: Christian rock – cut 1

Rusty Marks: (Singin along with song)

Tala: Hey Rusty, what you doin'?

Rusty Marks: I'm listening to the new song by Kutlass! It's sweet!

Tala: That album just came out didn't it?

Rusty Marks: Just yesterday. I'll be the first kid in church with it! Cool huh?

Tala: But yesterday you told me you were broke and I know you don't get any allowance till Friday. How could you afford the new album?

Rusty Marks: Oh, I didn't buy the album. It was free.

Tala: Free? You're so lucky! Did you win some kind of a contest?

Rusty Marks: No silly! I downloaded it off the internet. See, I found this new program that allows people to share all kinds of stuff over the internet. You can get movies, music, games, anything you want for free! Isn't it great?

Tala: But Rusty, you didn't pay for it. That's stealing!

Rusty Marks: No, it's not. Billy explained it to me like this. Since we are just "Sharing" our stuff, technically it's not stealing. And it's not like I walked into a store and took a CD. Besides, don't they play the music on the radio? It's all around us. I didn't steal from anybody.

Tala: I'm not sure Rusty. It seems like stealing to me.

ACT II

Music: Pink Panther - Cut 2

Scene: The thief is standing before the Judge.

Judge: Well, do you have anything to say for yourself Mr. Thief before I pass sentence?

Thief: You honor. I wasn't takin anything that someone would miss anyway. It was just an old painting that just hung on an old wall.

I have little ones at home I have to feed and clothe. I wasn't stealing. I was just doing my job to provide for my family like any other hard-working man.

I would hope that you would take this into consideration and not be to harsh on me your honor.

Judge: So, you say you weren't stealing... just providing for your family. Am I getting that right?

Thief: Exactly! Now you're getting it. I'm just a poor hard-working man.

Judge: Would you approach the bench? (Thief comes next to Judge)

Can I see your arm please? (Thief holds out arm with watch on it – Judge Snatches watch.)

Thief: Hey! What's up? You just stole the watch my kids gave me for father's day!

Judge: I'm not stealing. I just like the watch. You won't miss it.

Thief: Of course I will! That watch means a lot to me. Now give it back, or I'll...

Judge: Or you'll what?

Thief: I don't know.

Judge: Well, you'll have a lot of time to think about it.

Guilty! 20 years in jail!

Now take him away.

Thief: It's not fair I tell you!

Music: Light Christian music

Scene: Thief and judge go down – Mom comes up and then a few seconds later Tala comes up.

Tala: Mom, can I ask you a question?

Mom: Sure kiddo. What's on your mind?

Tala: Is downloading music on the internet stealing?

Mom: Not necessarily. There are a lot of good sites on the internet that you can pay for and download music.

Tala: But what if you were just sharing it?

Mom: You mean, what if you took music off of someone else's computer and copied it to your own?

Tala: Uh huh.

Mom: Yes. That would be stealing.

Tala: But you didn't really take anything. It's not like you walked out of a store with a CD in your purse.

Mom: Oh, I see. You've been talking to your friends.

I can see we are in need of an explanation. Musicians create music to share. When you buy a CD or one of their songs you are saying that what they have created has value. This is how they make their living. If you don't pay for the music then you are stealing from them.

Tala: What about the radio? They play the music all the time and I don't have to pay for that.

Mom: Oh, but you do. Every time a commercial comes on, you are paying for the music. Advertisers pay the stations, who then pay the musicians to play you the music you want to hear.

If you download a song from the internet, you are stealing the artist's product unless you have paid for it. And that goes for games, movies or anything that you take without paying for it.

Tala: I think I understand. I promise that I will pay for what I get mom.

Mom: That's my girl.

ACT III

Music: Pink Panther

Scene: Thief is behind bars.

Thief: I promise. I will never steal again! Just let me out! Please!

Oh, why didn't I listen to me mum?(slide down)

Scene: Thief slides down – Tala and Rusty come up together.

Rusty Marks: Tala, you were so right! My dad found out what I was doing and I am in sooo much trouble. I'm on restriction for a week and I have lost my computer privileges for a month.

Tala: I talked to my Mom and she explained the whole thing to me.

Rusty Marks: I talked to Billy but he wouldn't listen to me. He said everyone is doing it.

Tala: Billy is bit hard-headed

Rusty Marks: That's not the worst of it.

Tala: What happened?

Rusty Marks: Well, I guess there was a government agency tracking people stealing stuff on the internet and they went to Billy's house.

Tala: Oh no.

Rusty Marks: I heard that Billy's dad might have to pay a large fine and they have to go to court. His dad might even loose his job.

Tala: That's terrible!

Rusty Marks: I know. I'm never going to steal another thing.

Besides, I know that, even if I never get caught, God knows what I did.

Tala: Yeah, God knows everything.

Hey, let's call Billy and see if we can pray for him.

Rusty Marks: Good idea.

Scene: Both slide down and Ripley comes up

Ripley: It's not always easy to do the right thing kids and sometimes things seem like their okay. But the world is deceived by Satan and he would love for us to fall.

So, stay on your guard and if you are not sure of something, ask your teacher or your parents. The bible tells us in Proverbs 14:12 "There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death."

God loves you so much that He wants you to live.

Remember, don't steal... And your lives send out Ripples.

Music: "Ripples Theme"

Music: "Ten Commandments"

~End~