

Suggestions for group discussion:

There is more than enough material in these questions to fill up your whole discussion time. So, consider these three suggestions for group discussion:

First, choose just one of the 2 Introduction questions.

Second, choose no more than 5 or 6 of the Understanding questions.

Third, be sure to allow enough time for the Application.

Introduction:

1. When has someone told you not to do something and that made you want to do the very thing you were told not to do?
2. In what ways are you most likely to long for “the good old days”?

Understanding:

3. Francis A. Schaeffer said that if you break any of the first 9 commandments, it always starts with breaking the tenth commandment against coveting. Do you agree? Why or why not?
4. God intervened miraculously to save the Israelites from the Egyptians, then they went out in the wilderness, where God gave them a pillar of cloud to follow during the day, and a pillar of fire by night. Did the Israelites respond in constant gratitude? Why or why not?
5. Did receiving the Ten Commandments get the Israelites to finally stop complaining? Why do you think so?
6. Consider what and how we desire. Does the Bible teach that it’s wrong to desire things and that we must put a damper on all our desires?
7. David saw Bathsheba, slept with her, and then sent her away. When she realized she was pregnant, David had her husband killed. Does this show that David did not know the commandments? Explain.
8. What are the ways that the Law points towards our need for a savior?
9. Read Romans 7:7-8. Since the Law can inspire coveting, does that mean that the Law is bad?

Application:

10. Take an honest inventory: “Am I coveting?” Why are you coveting that thing or person, and why do you think you need that to be happy?
11. Turn the tenth commandment around. The opposite of being jealous of what your neighbor has is being happy for them – Loving them enough to be glad for how God has blessed them. Can you see how something you covet can be turned to love?
12. Paul wrote to the Corinthians to “take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” Consider your answer to #10 and #11. This week, can you pray that Christ would take your covetous thoughts captive and free you from what you covet?