

Each man in Israel wanted as many animals as he could get. Animals helped to do the man's work. Animals could be sold. They were worth money. Having a lot of animals was like having a lot of money in the bank.

Imagine a farmer named Samuel who saw a very strong ox. Right away Samuel wanted that ox for his very own. He wanted that ox so much he could not think about anything else. He would not smile at his children. He was cross with his wife. All of the time he was thinking about a way to get that ox. He could not be happy until the ox was his own.

Now that ox belonged to Samuel's neighbor, Jonathon. Jonathon had only this one ox. He needed the ox very much.

But Samuel wanted the ox too. He could not think about how much Jonathon needed the ox. He could only think about himself.

God knew men were like Samuel. That is why God gave us this rule -

You shall not covet your neighbor's ox -
or anything that is your neighbors.

(Exodus 20:17)

TURN CARD OVER

To covet means to want to have for yourself.

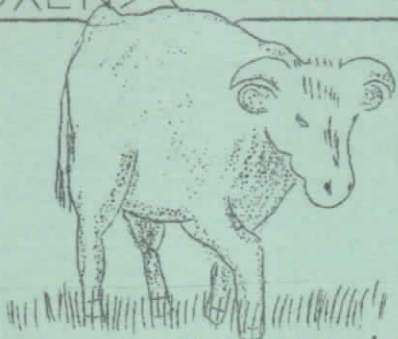
Do you ever covet anything that is your neighbor's?
Of course, you do not usually covet an animal that belongs
to someone else. But perhaps you are like this -

Jack saw Bill's new football. Boy, it was a beauty!
Jack wished it were his. Jack wanted the ball so much
he couldn't be nice to Bill about it. He makes some
nasty remarks to show Bill he thought it was a "crummy"
football. Jack can't enjoy seeing Bill play with the
ball. Jack thinks about the football even after they
are in school. He cannot think about anything else.
He forgets that he is saving money for his sister's
birthday. He decides to offer Bill all his savings
for that football.

Patty has a new red dress. All the girls are looking
at it. They tell Patty how pretty it is. But Ruth
wants that dress for her very own. Ruth isn't nice
to Patty about it because Ruth wishes the dress were
hers.

God gave us a law for times like this -

Thou shalt not covet.



Each man in Israel wanted as many animals as he could get. Animals helped to do the man's work. Animals could be sold. They were worth money. Having a lot of animals was like having a lot of money in the bank.

Imagine a farmer named Samuel who saw a very strong ox. Right away Samuel wanted that ox for his very own. He wanted that ox so much he could not think about anything else. He would not smile at his children. He was cross with his wife. All of the time he was thinking about a way to get that ox. He could not be happy until the ox was his own.

Now that ox belonged to Samuel's neighbor, Jonathon. Jonathon had only this one ox. He needed the ox very much.

But Samuel wanted the ox too. He could not think about how much Jonathon needed the ox. He could only think about himself.

God knew men were like Samuel. That is why God gave us this rule -

You shall not covet your neighbor's ox -
or anything that is your neighbors.
(Exodus 20:17)

TURN CARD OVER