All countries have laws against stealing. Those who are caught stealing might be fined, or beaten, or have one of their hands cut off, or be put in jail. God does not want His friends to suffer such horrible punishments. He does not even want us to feel embarrassed or guilty. If we are always His friends, asking Him to help us live honestly and not steal, we will not have to worry about this problem.

Instead, we can have what David describes in Psalm 16:11.

Read this verse in your Bible, and circle God’s alternatives to guilt and shame.

JOY SADNESS

EMBARRASSMENT PLEASURE

If this is what you choose for your life, sign your name here:

Signed

"You must not steal."
Exodus 20:15, ICB
Oh my, look at those wonderful bananas! I’m sure no one would mind if I ate just one!

Those were so good! Maybe I should have a couple more!

Oh dear, I can’t believe I ate all those bananas! I hope they don’t notice they are missing.

But they did notice the bananas were missing. Not only that, someone saw her eating the bananas that did not belong to her. When Sally’s neighbors came home, they came to visit Sally’s parents. Sally’s dad called her.
What do you think? Circle your answer.

YES  NO

What could he do to make it right? Circle the number in front of each correct answer.

1. Confess to the teacher that the good grade did not belong to him.
2. Determine to prepare better for future exams.
3. Make sure nobody catches him cheating.
4. Ask God to forgive him and help him never do it again.

Read the story of Zaccheus in Luke 19:1-8. Under each number, circle what Zaccheus did to pay back the people he stole from.

1. He paid back the people he knew he had cheated

   The same amount  twice as much money  four times as much money

2. Because Zaccheus could not find many of the people he cheated, what part of his riches did he give to poor people?

   1/2  1/3  1/4  1/10

Is cheating a problem for you? If it is, just close your eyes and ask God to forgive and help you. He can help with any problem.

Sally, do you know anything about the missing bananas next door?

Uh, yes . . .

I ate them.

All of them?

What happened to them?

Yes.
Well, at least I don’t steal!

Okay, put your books away, and take out a blank sheet of paper.

Steve looked over at Helen’s paper on her desk. Helen always wrote in large, bold letters, and it was easy to see them from where he sat. Helen confidently wrote the answers to each question. Steve copied her answers onto his paper. He did not feel very good about what he was doing, but he did not want a bad grade for his quiz either. Suddenly he stopped!

Select two answers that show what God’s friend would do next.

1. Sally prayed and asked Jesus to forgive her.
2. She gave all the pocket money she had been saving, to help pay for the bananas she had eaten.
3. She told the neighbor that she felt free to eat bananas that were not locked up.
4. She asked if the neighbor could prove she had eaten them.

She felt very sorry. She knew stealing was wrong.

Have you ever stolen something? Because Sally was a friend of God, how do you think she felt after stealing the bananas? Draw her expression on this face.

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