

Group Discipleship Lesson

6th Commandment You Shall Not Murder Exodus 20:13

Let's Get Started

1. What is the first question recorded in the Bible?
2. Who asked the question?
3. What is the second question asked in the Bible?
4. Who asked the question?



Read **Genesis 4:3-10**.

5. Who committed the first murder recorded in the Bible, and what was the cause?
6. What prompted God to say, "The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground?"

Let's Go Deeper

In **Genesis 9:5-7**, we read, "*From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man. Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.*"

7. Who was God speaking to? _____ What global event has taken place? The _____.

8. It appears that God initiated capital punishment. Do you believe this is validation for the lawful use of capital punishment today? Why or why not?

Read **Exodus 21:12-28**.

9. In verse 12-13, a man kills another man, but he is given the right to what we might call a form of “protective custody.” Why?

10. In verse 14, a man kills another man, but he is sentenced to die. Why?

11. Last year in America alone, government statistics show that 623,471 babies were aborted. Each of the scriptures below offers us a glimpse into the value God places on the unborn. Read each one aloud.

Psalms 139:13-16

Genesis 25:22-24

Jeremiah 1:5

Luke 1:15

Matthew 1:20

Ephesians 2:10

From your reading, how would you respond to the following questions?

True or False: God knows us before we are born.

True or False: God begins making plans for us before we are born.

True or False: God’s value for human life begins at birth.

Read **Matthew 5:21-24**.

12. According to Jesus, do you have to physically kill someone to be found guilty of murder?

13. According to Jesus' definition of murder, can you think of a time when you have injured or even lost a relationship because you “murdered” them with your words?
14. According to **James 4:1-2**, if we murder someone with our words or in our hearts, what type of effect does this have on our intimate relationship with God?
15. According to **Matthew 5:25**, what should we do if we “murder” someone with our words? What should we do if we “murder” them in our heart?

Let's Live It Out Together

Currently, abortion is legal in the United States, with some restrictions that vary between states. Consider closing your group gathering by praying for the sanctity of life to be honored in the hearts of our Supreme Court judges in the coming weeks, months, or years.

Privately, during the week, let us spend time in personal reflection, examining our hearts, relative to the temptation to commit spiritual murder when we feel threatened, when we feel marginalized, or when we are treated unjustly.

Father, we have a murderous enemy who stomps his feet, claps his hands, and cheers when we fail to love others as Jesus loves us. Holy Spirit, help us love and value others, as we are taught to do so in 1 Corinthians 13.

The Building Blocks of Loving Relationships is found in **1 Corinthians 13:1-7**. Read this together as a group:

“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

What is love? Ponder the points below:

1. Love never gives up.
2. Love cares more for others than for self.
3. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.
4. Love doesn't strut.
5. Love doesn't have a swelled head.
6. Love doesn't force itself on others.
7. Love isn't "me first."
8. Love doesn't fly off the handle.
9. Love doesn't keep score of the sins of others.
10. Love doesn't celebrate being right at the expense of one who was wrong.
11. Love takes pleasure in the truth.
13. Love trusts God always.
14. Love always looks for the best.
16. Love keeps going to the end, persevering peacefully.

"By this all people will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another."

-James 13:35