

Fifth Commandment-Shall Not Murder



“You shall not murder.”

-Exodus 20:13

Fifth Commandment:

You shall not murder.

FOCUS THIS WEEK

We are commanded not to murder or kill. So what? What does this mean in a world where children and parents kill each other with looks, language and actions? What does it mean in a world where corporations pollute oceans, rivers and forests to make a buck? What does it mean in a world where a baby can be shaken to death, the elderly can be abandoned and mistreated, and “collateral damage” from both terrorists and those fighting the war on terror is deemed acceptable?



SHARE

highs and lows to set the stage for a more open and meaningful discussion.



READ

and highlight the theme verse, Exodus 20:13 then connect it to one or more of the following

texts:

Matthew 5:38-39

Matthew 5:43-44

Hebrews 10:30b

Leviticus 19:18



TALK

about how the Bible reading might relate to today’s highs and lows. Supplement your discussion with some of the following.

A. IMAGES IN WORDS AND ART Take a look at the theme art. What do you see in the art? Ask youth where they are in the art. How might the art and the theme verse apply to your group highs and lows today?

B. ROLE PLAY

1. A new kid in school is being pushed around by the school bully. What do you say and do?

2. Your best friend comes to you in tears. She is afraid of her father’s angry outbursts. What do you do? What do you say?

C. CATECHISM ENCOUNTER

Read Martin Luther's explanation of the Fifth Commandment in the Small Catechism. Circle the word that jumps out at you and share why.

Luther's Small Catechism Meaning of the Fifth Commandment:

We are to fear and love God, so that we neither endanger nor harm the lives of our neighbors, but instead help and support them in all of life's needs.

D. QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. **What would it take for you to have the power to hold back rather than strike back next time someone wrongs you?** *Affirm all thoughtful answers.*
2. **Justice and mercy are two sides to the same coin. Which is more important to you? Why? Think about this in relationship to capital punishment, mercy killing, and the war against terrorism.** *Affirm all thoughtful answers. There are no easy answers here.*
3. **How can words, looks, and inaction kill? Hurting people in any way kills a part of them. We are to defend them, speak well of them and explain their actions in the kindest of ways.**

E. TERMS OF THE WEEK

Review these key terms and write definitions.

Capital Punishment: Killing a person convicted of a crime.

Kill: Hurting our neighbors in any way (either by something we do or don't do).

Murder: To unlawfully end a human life.

Neighbor: Everyone in the world. Jesus answered the question, "Who is my neighbor?" by saying that even our enemies are our neighbors.

War: When nations fight and kill one another.

F. WRAP UP

Summarize the event with your group, assigning someone to share what you learned at closing.

- One new thing we learned today
- One thing we already knew that is worth repeating
- One thing we would like to know more about
- The highest highs and lowest lows which our group will bring to the closing prayer



PRAY

for one another. Praise and thank God for your highs. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you in your lows. Include your friend's highs and lows in your group. Invite youth to think of something going on in the world that calls for prayer.



BLESS

one another by name. Trace a cross on each hand or forehead. Look them in the eyes and give them a smile. Ask for their blessing as well!