

## THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON

**DATE:** June 9, 2019

**SUBJECT: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: The Sixth Commandment (1 of 2)—You Shall not Kill**

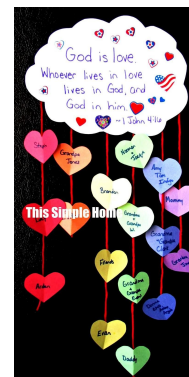
**SCRIPTURE:** Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17

**AIM:** God, the creator and giver of life, gave man his life and existence. Only He has the right to take away life. We should treasure human life as God does.

**MEMORY VERSES TO CHOOSE FROM:** Exodus 20:13 (You shall not kill.); 1 John 2:11 (But he who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.); Matthew 5:22a (But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be liable to the judgment.); John 13:34 (A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.)

**SUGGESTED SONGS:** 5509 (Psalm 100); 95 (Just Because He Cares); 6719 (The Ten Commandments); 6711 *BSS Matthew Vol. 2 #20* (The Great Command); 3115 (How Do You Obey God's Word?); 9557 (I Love My Brother); 7 (I am a Very Special Child); 187 (God Created Me); 13 (A New Commandment)

**CRAFT IDEA:** 1) Make a hanging collage of hearts. Write the names of family members, friends and neighbors on each heart. 2) Add sixth commandment to the two tablets long term craft.



**CONTENT:** The sixth commandment is “**You shall not kill.**” (Exo. 20:13). Murder is the intentional taking of a human being’s life (not an animal’s) out of malice. To murder is against God’s law because it is against God’s loving nature and also violates His life-giving sovereignty. Since the Ten Commandments reveal God to us, they also show us what God likes and what He does not like; how we should behave and how we should not behave.

In the Bible, the first murder is recorded in Genesis 4, when Cain killed his brother Abel. Cain and Abel were the sons of Adam and Eve. Abel was a shepherd, and he offered God the firstling of the flock. Cain was a farmer, and he offered God the fruit of the ground. God accepted Abel’s offering, not Cain’s because Cain did not offer according to God’s desire. For this reason, Cain was angry and killed his brother (Gen. 4:1-8). God punished Cain by saying, “And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it will no longer yield its strength to you. You will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.” We see how God’s punishment upon Cain was really severe. He was driven from the presence of God. In the generations that followed, as we see in the books of Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, there were many more incidents of killings. All these were condemned by God.

God alone is the giver of life, therefore He alone has the right to take it away. God created mankind as His masterpiece. Man was created in a particular manner in God’s image and likeness, and with a particular purpose to express God and to represent Him. Man was created for God and belongs to God (Gen. 1:26-27). God is the source of human life (Gen. 2:7). Thus, human life is most valuable to God. James 3:9-10 tells us that because man has God’s image and expression, we should never curse another man, for that is to insult his Creator. From this we see that to despise human life is to despise its Creator, God.

Although human beings are of different colors, races, languages, abilities, intelligence, etc., God loves all mankind. He is the Author of life (Acts 3:15). “...since He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things. And He made from one every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth...” (Acts

17:25b-26a). God, being the source of human life, has the sole right to take man's life. However, God has given government the authority to mete out punishment and execute murderers and evil doers (Gen. 9:6).

God created us as vessels to contain Him and He gave us our life. On the contrary, Satan wants to destroy man's life so God cannot fulfill His purpose. Therefore, Satan tries to incite man to commit murder to destroy the vessel where God wants to dwell. We must be clear and know that what he is doing is against God's purpose. We must not be deceived by the evil one. We should acknowledge God's sovereignty over man's life, and not take man's life in our hands in the fear of God.

**SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:** *Please pray and fellowship over which applications to cover. Please do not try to cover all the applications. It is sufficient to cover just **one or two applications** which are appropriate for the age group of the children you are serving.*

- **We should value human life to the utmost.** God is the source of life and created each of us. He is the One who gave life to us. The Bible tells us that "He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things." (Acts 17:25b). We should respect and treasure human life to the utmost. God, being the source of human life, has the sole right to take man's life.
- **The Lord can help us love one another.** In our prayer, we need to bring our feelings to God. If we are angry, we should tell the Lord and ask Him to help defuse that anger. We should not give way to Satan for that anger to increase or grow. As we pray to the Lord, He can help us to forgive and forget and even love the person that offended us.
- **God is the Judge.** "Do not avenge yourselves, beloved, but give place to the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' But 'if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in doing this you will heap coals of fire upon his head.' Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good" (Rom. 12:19-21). We need to respect God's ruling. He is the one who has the authority to judge man. When we cooperate with Him, we are on God's side. When someone offends us, we need to remember that this one was also created by God. Only God has the authority and right to judge him and to punish him. Who are we? We are just a fellow creature created by God. We cannot avenge ourselves by murdering others. This will be usurping God's authority. We should not be deceived by Satan. We need to understand this and show our fear of God by respecting Him as the sovereign One over human life.

Adapted from *Bringing Children from Adam to Christ—The Ten Commandments*, Vol. 3, Lesson 12, and the Church in New York City Children's Meeting lessons: 8/28/88; 2/28/99; 6/5/05; 6/8/14