**THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY**

**CHILDREN’S MEETING LESSON**

**DATE:** June 16, 2019

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

**SCRIPTURE:** Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17; Matthew 5:21-22; Genesis 4:1-16; Ephesians 4:26-27, 31-32; 1 John 3: 15; 1 John 4:16

**AIM:** We should love all men and should not murder because God loves all men. Since murder results from anger and hatred we must allow neither one to fill our heart. We should not get angry with people or lose our temper with them.

**MEMORY VERSES TO CHOOSE FROM:** Exodus 20:13 (You shall not kill); Matthew 5: 44 (But I say to you, Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you); Matthew 22:39b (“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”); Ephesians 4:26-27 (**26** Be angry, yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your indignation, **27** Neither give place to the devil.); Ephesians 4:31-32 (**31** Let all bitterness and anger and wrath and clamor and evil speaking be removed from you, with all malice. **32** And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ also forgave you.)

**SUGGESTED SONGS:** 6711 *BSS Matthew Vol. 2 #20* (The Great Command); 4605 *BSS Matthew Vol. 1 #27* (Mom Told Me To Clean My Room); 3436 *BSS Matthew Vol. 1 #25* (If You Want A Great Big Smile); 9226 *BSS David #26* (God Is Forgiving); 6722 (We Have A Father); 9208 *BSS David #8* (Sing, Sing, Sing); 56 (God Sees Us); 14 (Scriptures for singing #2); 19 (When We’re Kind To Others); 2823 (God’s Words I Will Obey)

**CRAFT IDEA:** Heart suncatcher using self-stick clear contact paper, and flat embellishments such as glitter and colored tissue. Sample instructions can be found on <https://www.happinessishomemade.net/easy-toddler-valentine-craft/>. 

**APPROACH:** Bring items or illustrations of items that are very fragile, such as a flower, eggshell, vase or teacup. Discuss how easy it is to break or damage those fragile objects but how difficult it is (or impossible) to put them back together. Point out that human life is very fragile. When we get upset we should be careful not to hurt others with our words or hit or strike them with our hands or feet. If those fragile items are valuable to you, you would treat them with special care. In like manner, because man is valuable to God, God has commanded us to love man and not to hurt or kill man.

**CONTENT:** The sixth commandment reveals to us that to murder is against God’s nature and law, for God is the giver and the source of man’s life. Only God has the authority to take a man’s life. Also, man should not murder because God is love. The teaching in the New Testament goes beyond the Ten Commandments. All of the commandments concerning our behavior towards others are summed up in the Lord’s word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:39). Murder results from anger and hatred. Let’s look at what the Lord Jesus said about anger in Matthew 5. He said, “You have heard that it was said to the ancients, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders shall be liable to the judgment.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be liable to the judgment.” (Matthew 5:21-22a) The Lord considers both anger and hatred to be the same as murder (1 John 3:15). Here the Lord Jesus likens anger to murder which receives the same punishment. What a serious warning this is. However, who is exempt from anger? Little infants, toddlers, adolescents, adults, all of us are guilty of anger at one time or another. We need to see that to be angry, especially at our brothers and sisters, in the Lord’s eyes is as serious as killing them. To be angry at them is not acceptable to the Lord, and needs our repentance and confession.

God will not tolerate murder either in action or in heart, for God is love. A heart that is filled with anger or hatred cannot be filled with love or with God. When anger is allowed to remain in our heart it may develop into hatred, and hatred gives place to the devil (the murderer, John 8:44). For this reason we are told to not allow “the sun to go down on our wrath,” for this will “give place to the devil” (Ephesians 4:26-27). This means that we should resolve our anger quickly and not allow anger to stay in our heart more than one day so that it will not become hatred.

Two things will help us to have a change of heart—from anger, bitterness, and hatred (Ephesians 4:31) to love: (1) Remember how much kindness and forgiveness God has shown to us (Ephesians 4:32). In the same way we should forgive others. (2) Pray for those who do mean or wrong things against us. Matthew 5:43-44 says, “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you.”

Love comes from God, for God is love (1 John 4:16). Because God is love, only God is able to help us love our brothers and sisters, our friends, and even our enemies.

**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.*

* God loves man and He does not want us to hurt (or kill) what He loves. This is why we must learn to keep our hands and feet to ourselves when we get upset with someone. We should not hurt people. Instead God wants us to love them just as we love ourselves. We should follow the rule of doing unto others as you would have them do unto you.
* Although we have never killed anyone, when we lose our temper or get angry with others, in God’s eyes we are still breaking this commandment. Even calling people stupid or dumb is unacceptable to God (Matthew 5:22). Calling people bad names hurts them inside, in a way you might not be able to see. Sometimes our friends or classmates may bully or make fun of other kids. We should neither participate in nor condone such activity.
* When you hit, push or kick others or call them names, or ignore them, they feel bad, God feels bad and you feel bad inside too. (Touch the children’s conscience about how they truly feel inside when they lose their temper with someone. Expose them of their inward hatred or anger towards others.) We need to confess those actions and our inward bad feeling towards others to the Lord. As we confess these negative feelings to the Lord we are cleansed and forgiven by Him. God loves us and because of this great love that He bestows on us, we can love others, even those who treat us poorly. We have the capacity to love all men because of God Himself. We must realize that God is the source of all love and that His love enables us to love all people.

Adapted from *Bringing Children from Adam to Christ–The Ten Commandments*, Vol. 3, Lesson 13, and the Church in New York City Children’s Meeting lessons: 8/28/88; 3/07/99; 6/8/05; 6/12/05; 6/15/14