

LG | Leader

[Exodus 20:13]

WARM-UP (10 mins)

It is likely that everyone present had a very busy day, maybe even a trying day. Let's take a moment to still our minds and go the Lord in prayer.

- Without looking, what are the first 5 commandments?
- How has your view of honoring your parents changed since our re-discovery of the 5th commandment? If alive, how have you honored your parents in these recent days? If passed, how have you honored your parents in these recent days?

ILLUMINATE (40 mins)

Open your Bibles to the primary text.

1. The 5th commandment is Do Not Murder. What was the first murder in the Bible? How did God react?
Cain killed Abel (Genesis 4). God's anger was kindled and Cain was banned from God's presence and was made to be a wanderer the remainder of his days. However, God did not harm Cain. Rather, he protected Cain by putting an identifying mark on his head to make known to every living creature that he belonged to God and was not be harmed.
2. The 5th commandment is stated in the negative, but how could you state this commandment in the positive? What does "living this commandment in the positive" look like?
[Example: Cherish Life] – How do you cherish life (your life and the life of others) in your daily activities?
3. None of us would say that we are murderers, but how are we participants in glorifying murder?
Our choice of television shows, movies, video games, etc. numb our senses to the horrific nature of murder. In our casualness towards our choice of entertainment, we can fuel the fire of murder, ultimately desensitizing us over time. [Likewise, one might not think himself/herself a participant in sex trafficking, but viewing pornography is kindling the fire of sex trafficking]
4. How does our anger and hate contribute to the violation of the 5th commandment?
Jesus makes the connection between murder and anger in Matthew 5:21-26. Anger is a precursor to murder and at its essence is a Violation of the 5th commandment. For this reason, anger must be extinguished upon its genesis (verse 25 emphasizes this). As believers, we are to always neutralize and surrender the thought before the desire for action presents itself.
5. Could our omissions make us participants in murder? [Example: Neglecting those who have great need]
What is the story of the good Samaritan? Who were the individuals who left the Jewish man on the side of the road for dead? Who helped the man? Culturally, were Jews and Samaritans friends

or enemies? What can we learn from this? [The religious men left the battered man for dead. The Samaritan had compassion on his enemy. Jesus teaches us to do the same.]

6. In that vein, how might you love your enemies and protect the unborn in a “pro-choice” culture? Christians are not to be politically motivated but biblically motivated. We cherish life because God cherishes life. We value the image because we are image bearers. We are defenders of the innocent because God is a defender of the innocent. However, we display grace towards our enemies, because while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Remember, God did not pour out his wrath and destroy the murderer Cain; he rebuked him and then protected him.
7. As we depart this commandment, what do you think is the most important take-away for us, given its context and placement in the 10 commandments? God is the Giver of Life; he defends and protects it and so should we. For Israel, he is beginning to paint a picture of His justice.

PRAY

Use this time to pray specifically. Pray for the needs of others; locally and abroad.