

2) The Sixth Commandment

10-15 minutes

Say to the students: **Let's turn to Exodus 20 and read Exodus 20:1-4, 7-8 and 12-13.** After you have finished the reading, say:

These first four commandments are focused on God and how the Israelites were to worship and serve Him. Our focus now will look at how God wants us to treat others.

What was the fifth commandment in verse 12? Honor your father and your mother.

Why does God say to do that? So you may live long.

What is the sixth commandment in verse 13? You shall not murder.

Who does that apply to? Everyone – it doesn't matter who they are, or what a person has done, you should not murder them. God doesn't give an exception.

Let's turn now to the New Testament to Matthew 5:21-22 and read it so we can see what Jesus says about murdering and how we should treat people today.

Matthew 5:21-22

21 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

Raca: was a term of contempt in Arabic or a term of disgust towards someone.

Fool: a silly or stupid person; a person who lacks judgment or sense.

What is Jesus saying here? Not only you can't murder – you should not be angry with your fellow Christian "without cause" (some versions don't say without cause) or you can be subject to judgment by God. That includes calling someone names or saying they are a fool or some word implying they are not wise.

So how should we treat others? With careful words and actions. We should not hurt and we should not call other's names. We need to help each other learn in love, not in anger or with angry words.

Let's look at Matthew 22:37-40

37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Verse 37 sums up the first 4 commandments – Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind (in other words, every part of you –how you think, feel, behave spiritually, and your actions should all show love for God and His Son Jesus). This includes the commandments:

1. You shall have no other gods before me
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol
3. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord
4. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy (but today we worship on Sunday)

Verse 38 sums up the next 6 commandments in the 10 Commandments - Love your neighbor as yourself. Since Jesus was meaning and intending that our neighbor is anyone around us including family, friends, or strangers we should love everyone. And that, as Jesus said in verse 40, sums up all the Law and the Prophet's words from the Old Testament. If we love God with

all our heart and love our neighbors as ourselves, we will be able to easily keep all the commandments of Jesus and God. That means not hurting anyone with words or actions.

Finally, let's turn to and read 1 John 3:15-16

1 John 3:15-16

15 Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

What does this verse mean? We should do whatever we can to help our brothers and sisters in Christ and that anyone who hates in the eyes of Jesus is just as bad as a murderer – to Him it is the same thing!

So we need to focus on loving and helping others, and stop thinking, saying, or acting out bad hurtful things to others. PERIOD!

Ask the students if they have any questions before moving on to the next activity.

3) Exodus 20 Ten Commandments Poster Activity

15-20 minutes

Hand out one page to each child along with markers or pencil crayons. Explain to them that, **“Each week we are going to study a commandment that God gave the Israelites. These were not the only commandments they were to follow, but they were the main ten principles that would guide them on to how to behave and act and what attitude they were to have towards God and others. It helps us today as well understand how God wants us to act, behave and the attitude we should have towards Him!**

Today we are going to fill in the 6th commandment. Exodus 20:12 You shall not murder. Either write the words and/or draw a picture to show how would describe this command. Any questions? Encourage students to draw a picture of someone NOT murdering someone else, maybe showing a bully being mean, but the other person instead of retaliating prays for them, talks with them, or goes and tells a teacher instead. We want to focus on the positive not the negative...

Help students come up with ideas if needed. Go around the room helping students and making sure they only do the sixth commandment. They will do the others in the coming weeks.

4) Windsock Commandment Craft

10-15 minutes

1. Hand out one template to each child with scissors and have them cut out the 10 Commandments and the Psalms verse.

2. Next, hand out ½ sheet of construction, poster, or cardstock paper to each child 4 ½ x 11 inches (of a sheet cut in half length wise). Have them form a cylinder with then paper and tape it together at the short 4 ½ inch ends. This will be the under base of the windsock.

3. Next, hand out felt 9 x 11 inches to each child, have them carefully cut 9 fringes in equal size – the same length as each of the ten commandments they just cut – see template for a picture to see. Don't cut all the way through only cut as high as needed to fit the commandments on. The top half of the felt will go around the cylinder they just finished.

4. Next, with a hole punch or tape – attach the chenille wire, pipe cleaner or sting as a handle onto the cylinder previously made and then with gluestick – glue the entire outside of the cylinder and then



wrap the felt (the part that is not cut) around the cylinder with the fringe pieces hanging below. (See picture above).

5. Then glue each commandment and the Psalm verse onto the windsock felt – with the Psalm at the top and the commandments on each fringe. If possible make a sample windsock before hand so children can see the finished product.

Say to them, **we can hang our windsock somewhere to help us remember the ideas of God's 10 commandments, the words aren't exact, but they are an easy way to remember what God was asking the Israelites to do when He gave them the 10 Commandments.**

5) Optional – Ten Commandments Crossword

5-10 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each student with a pencil. Read the instructions aloud for everyone and do the sheet together for those who might not be able to read all the words. Go around the room helping students if needed and remind them they can turn to Exodus 20 for help!

6) Optional – Snack: 6 Carrots for the 6th Commandment

5 minutes

Hand out 6 small carrots to each child along with a glass of water or juice to each child. State that **each week as we go through the Ten Commandments we are going to have a snack that the number matches the number we are studying. So this week we will have 6 carrots to represent the sixth commandment:**

Exodus 20:13 You shall not murder.

Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss any questions while snacking.

7) Optional – Songs

5 minutes

Have children sing songs with you; choose from the songs in the front of your binder.

8) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Thank God that He teaches us how to make Him happy and in turn make our lives happy as well by following Jesus and God's good commandments. Pray that we will focus on loving and being kind to one another and not be angry or say bad words to others as that is against what Jesus and God teach us. Pray that we will take our frustrations and problems to God and get help from Him instead of taking things out on others and saying things that will hurt people. Pray that we will continue to come to church to learn how God and Jesus want us to behave and pray that we will show the respect and love that our family, God, and Jesus deserve. In Jesus precious name, Amen.