

NO MURDER = NO UNRESOLVED ANGER IN YOUR HEART
The Tender Commandments
EXODUS 20:13

Ice Breaker: What is your favorite "who-dunnit" show you have ever seen?

BACKGROUND: The Ten Commandments are loving direction from the heart of a perfect, loving Father.

THE BIG PICTURE: The underlying premise of this commandment is: Sanctity of Human Life. We don't murder because mankind was created in the very image of God.

DIGGING DEEPER:

READ EXODUS 20:13. You shall not murder.

What's your first response when you read this commandment? What is implied by the word "murder"?

What are the characteristics that make life valuable? What does it mean to be created in the image of God? Why is that so critical for this law? How do you see this commandment preserving life?

What is the distinction between murder and killing? When might it be alright to kill?

How might you use the sixth commandment to reason through the life issues of:

- killing of animals?
- capital punishment?
- war?
- abortion?
- euthanasia?
- suicide?

READ MATTHEW 5:21-24 & 1 JOHN 3:15

What is the significance of Jesus' teaching? Why is unrighteous anger such a dangerous sin in Jesus' eyes? In what ways does anger cause our lives and relationships to suffer and crumble around us? What does your anger reveal about what you truly love and want to protect?

Murder is really a heart issue. How does murder originate in the heart? What is the solution to our heart problem? Why is it sometimes hard to forgive? What does active forgiveness look like?

Over the past week, consider how and when you became irritated, frustrated or angry. What was the cause? How did the anger rise or become irrational within you? What were you trying to protect? What does it look like to fully repent — to turn to Jesus for forgiveness and transformation?

CONCLUSION:

- How did this week's passage make a difference in your life?
- How do you see God's love and grace in this commandment?