



# Outward Group Discussion Guide

February 15, 2026 (Salem)

## SUMMARY

This sermon examines the sixth commandment "You shall not murder" through both Old and New Testament lenses, revealing that murder extends far beyond physical killing to include anger, insults, and hatred in the heart. The pastor emphasizes that all human life is sacred because every person bears the image of God (*imago Dei*). This sanctity applies universally—to the unborn, the elderly, immigrants, political opponents, and all people regardless of background. Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount raises the standard impossibly high, showing that anger and insults make us guilty of murder in our hearts. The sermon concludes with the gospel message: we cannot achieve the righteousness required to enter God's kingdom through our own efforts, but Jesus provides His perfect righteousness through the cross, taking our record of sin upon Himself.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does understanding that every person is made in God's image change the way you speak about or to people with whom you strongly disagree politically or ideologically?
2. In what ways have you witnessed or participated in 'murder of the heart' through anger, insults, or dismissive attitudes toward others?
3. How can we hold strong convictions about issues like abortion, immigration, or capital punishment while still treating every person as an image bearer deserving of dignity?
4. What does it mean practically to reconcile with someone who has something against you, and who in your life might God be calling you to approach today?
5. How does Jesus's teaching that anger and insults make us liable to judgment challenge your understanding of what it means to keep the commandment against murder?
6. In what ways do both political extremes in our culture disregard the sanctity of human life, and

how can Christians navigate these issues with biblical integrity?

7. How does the concept of receiving Christ's righteousness rather than depending on your own ability to keep the law bring freedom and hope to your spiritual life?
8. What are the 'buried landmines' in your relationships—unreconciled hurts or offenses—that need to be addressed before they cause greater damage?
9. How does recognizing that your identity is determined by God as Creator rather than by your own choices reshape your understanding of purpose and worth?
10. In what specific ways can you demonstrate that you value human life as sacred in your daily interactions, social media presence, and conversations about controversial topics?