

TEACHING THE ELEVEN COMMANDMENTS

MURDER VS. KILL – IS THERE A DIFFERENCE?

look back

First, **LOOK BACK** at the past week by asking, "How did we do?" Begin with prayer, then check in with one another—sharing honestly, celebrating victories, acknowledging struggles, and graciously offering practical help.

PRAYER - Begin with prayer, inviting Jesus into the conversation.

Then discuss last week's assignment:

- Were you able to talk with a grandchild about what it means to honor their parents?
- What did you learn from their response?
- Did you find a way to better honor or support their parents yourself?
- What are you changing about yourself to be a more honorable parent and grandparent?

look up

Next, **LOOK UP** to God's Word by asking, "What does Jesus want us to know?" If you haven't already, watch this week's video: *"Murder vs. Kill – Is There a Difference?"* Then use the summary, questions, and Scriptures below to draw out the main truths together.

WATCH: Episode 6: Murder vs. Kill – Is There a Difference?

Episode Summary

The Sixth Commandment says "You shall not murder," not simply "You shall not kill." Scripture distinguishes murder from the legitimate exercise of authority in circumstances such as justice and protection. Beneath that distinction is an even more fundamental truth: God is the Creator and Lord of life.

Human life belongs to Him and must be treated as sacred. Jesus takes the commandment deeper by showing that anger, hatred, and destructive words also violate its spirit. So teaching our grandchildren the Sixth Commandment means more than telling them not to take life. We can teach them to value life, protect others, build people up with their words, and become life-givers in a world that often tears people down.

Jesus takes this commandment beyond physical murder to what goes on in our hearts.

HOW TO USE THESE RESOURCES

Whether you're studying on your own or with a group, each guide follows a simple yet powerful rhythm: **Look Back / Look Up / Look Forward.** For group leaders, additional instructions for leading a small group are included at the end of the first workbook in each series.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

God's commandments give us a moral compass for navigating a world where truth and values are increasingly up for grabs. This eleven-part series explores the Ten Commandments and Jesus' "new commandment" to love one another as He has loved us. More than a list of restrictions, God's commands reveal His character, show us our need for Jesus, and guide us in passing on His legacy of love to the next generations.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Why is the distinction between killing and murder important for understanding the Sixth Commandment?
2. How does believing that every person belongs to God shape the way we value human life?
3. How can anger, gossip, slander, or demeaning words violate the spirit of this commandment?
4. What are your grandchildren learning about the value of human life from the culture around them?
5. How can you teach your grandchildren not merely to avoid hurting others, but to actively become life-givers?

Episode Notes

1. Killing and murder are not the same.

- The Sixth Commandment specifically forbids unlawful or unjustified killing.
- Scripture recognizes legitimate authority to protect life and execute justice.

2. God is the Lord of life.

- Every human life is created by God and belongs to Him.
- We must trust God with authority over life and death.

3. Our words can destroy.

- Jesus expands the commandment to include anger and hateful speech.
- Gossip, slander, and demeaning words can deeply wound others.

4. We are called to give life.

- The positive side of the commandment is to protect, encourage, and build others up.
- We can defend the vulnerable and share the eternal life found in Jesus.

5. Teach the value of every life.

- Help grandchildren understand that people are precious because they are made by God.
- Model life-giving words and actions in the way you treat others.

WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

KEY SCRIPTURE

Psalm 139:13–14 - "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully." Human life is sacred because God is its Creator. Teaching grandchildren to value life begins by helping them understand that every person is intentionally made by God and belongs to Him.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 18:21 - "The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit." The Sixth Commandment reaches beyond physical violence. Our words can wound and destroy, or they can encourage and give life. Grandparents can model this commandment positively by showing NextGens how to use their words to build others up.

look forward

Finally, **LOOK FORWARD** by asking, "What does Jesus want us to do?" Commit to practical steps for living out this week's lesson. Review the assignment, share commitments with the group, pray for one another, and move forward together in faith and hope.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Exodus 20:13; Romans 12:19; Matthew 5:21–22; Genesis 9:6; Romans 13:1–4

THIS EPISODE'S ASSIGNMENT

This week, help a grandchild or NextGen loved one explore the positive side of the Sixth Commandment: giving life to others. Dialogue about how our words can give life and how every person has value because they are created in God's image. Invite them to choose someone to encourage through a conversation, note, or act of kindness.

Model what you've encouraged them to do by encouraging someone yourself. Replace criticism, gossip, or careless speech with words that strengthen others.

PERSONAL GROWTH COMMITMENTS

- What has God laid on my heart?
- What is the Holy Spirit leading me to change?
- What will I do in my own life, in my relationships, and to reach NextGen loved ones?

SHARE WITH THE GROUP

Encourage sharing commitments, prayer needs, and real-life stories. Close in prayer, asking God to help you value every life and strengthen others through your words and actions.