



---

## Do Not Murder

Scott Merriner – March 20, 2022  
*Small Group Discussion Questions*

### Getting Started

Take some time to catch up and connect as a group. Pray before discussion. Expect God to move through your time together!

### Pacing Your Group

Move quickly through “observation” leaving enough time for “reflection”, “discussion”, and “surrender.”

### Scripture Reading

Re-read the scripture passages as needed when you discuss the questions.

---

**Observation:** *What does this scripture passage say?*

**Reflection and Discussion:** *What are some first thoughts flowing from the scriptures?*

*Talk together about how the scriptures connect to everyday life*

**Take some time to look up and read: Exodus 20:13**

1. The command to “murder not” does not prohibit using lethal force in self-defense, community-defense, or national defense. The Hebrew word “ratsach” means “murder” not “kill.” It denotes the unlawful and immoral (intentional or unintentional) taking of human life.
  - How does this distinction help, influence, or complicate a discussion and understanding of the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment?

**Take some time to look up and read: Genesis 9:6, Genesis 1:26-2, Psalm 139:13-16, Jeremiah 1:4-5**

2. What unique qualities and values distinguish humans from all other God created things? Why does God appeal to “image bearing” inside of his direction about murder? How does this amplify the importance of the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment?

This commandment applies to many of our most debated social issues: warfare, policing, self-defense, capital punishment, health care, suicide, and abortion. Our Declaration of Independence appeals to the God given value of human life:

*“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness...”*

–Declaration of Independence

**Take some time to look up and read: Proverbs 22:2 and Proverbs 14:31**

3. How are these challenges tied to those who are poor and needy significant to our understanding of the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment?

**Take some time to look up and read: Matthew 5:21-22, 1 John 3:15**

4. A relationship with Christ aims for the heart, not simply outward behavior modification and compliance.
  - What does it mean to “murder someone in your heart”? How do these passages the issue to all of us?

---

**Surrender: Responding to God’s voice.**

5. What is one thing God is saying to you through this study and discussion?

**\*\* Take some time to pray for one another in response to what has been discussed today \*\***

---

We’re here!

We would love to hear about how things are going in your small group!  
Reach out any time with questions, ideas, thoughts, or concerns.

Contact Care & Community Pastor, Michael Warren, (907) 646-4830, [communitylife@changepointalaska.com](mailto:communitylife@changepointalaska.com)