

DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT
The Ten Commandments — Week 9

ICEBREAKER: When does the end justify the means?

OVERVIEW: The sixth commandment may be the most interesting of all. The first person ever to be born on earth committed murder. The three most popular heroes in the Bible were guilty of murder – Moses, David, and Paul. Murder is the best-known command. Murder is the one command that everyone agrees with. God used the sin of murder to redeem the human race. Murder is the one sin that probably nobody in our church has violated. At the same time, murder is a sin that has been committed by every member of our church, although most don't realize it. In this discussion we will go deeper with the meaning application of the sixth commandment.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Read Exodus 20:13. What does this commandment forbid? What is the difference between "killing" and "murder"?
3. Does the sixth commandment forbid capital punishment? Explain. (For help, see Exodus 21:12-14; Romans 13:4.)
4. Does the sixth command forbid killing in war and self-defense? Explain. (For help, see Deuteronomy 20:17-18; 1 Samuel 15:2-3.)

5. Does the sixth commandment forbid the killing of animals? Explain. (For help, see Genesis 9:3; Acts 10:11-13.)
6. Why is murder wrong (i.e. why does God forbid it)? (For help, see Genesis 9:5-6.)
7. What are some of the different ways that people break the sixth commandment?
8. Read Matthew 5:21-22 and 1 John 3:15. In the sermon it was stated that everyone in our church is guilty of murder, even if they don't know it. How is that possible?
9. What is the positive application of the sixth commandment?

The Last Word: What is the positive application of this commandment? To highly value and diligently preserve all human life. This includes the lives of others as well as our own.