

A photograph of a man with glasses and two young boys in school uniforms. The man is in the center, looking towards the boy on the right. The boy on the left is looking towards the man. The boy on the right is looking towards the man. They are all wearing light blue and white striped shirts. The background is a dark green wall.

Family Study Guides

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

6. "YOU SHALL NOT MURDER."

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Family Study Guide

6. "You shall not murder."

[We suggest that as you use this Family Study Guide, select and focus on a main portion or two that you feel will help your family's study into the commandment. You do not need to cover every aspect, discussion or scripture presented in this guide. Select the aspects or principles most relevant or helpful to your family.]

Objectives:

- The review and discussion of the story of Cain and Abel which shows how an attitude of jealousy can lead to hatred, which is murder in the heart.
- Discuss how Jesus expanded on the 6th Commandment in the New Testament and how we need to apply the 6th Commandment in our daily lives.

Memory Verse:

1 John 3:15 *Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.*

John 10:10 *A thief comes to steal and kill and destroy, but I came to give life — life in all its fullness. NCV*

INTRODUCTON

While **Exodus 20:13** states simply "*Thou shalt not kill*" (KJV), the Bible reveals that the Sixth Commandment is vitally important and broader in scope than many people would like to believe. This Family Study Guide will help explore all that this commandment entails.

Old Testament Example

The story of Cain and Abel shows how an attitude of jealousy can lead to hatred (*murder*-1John 3:15). Read or summarize the story of Cain and Abel in **Genesis 4:1-16** from a child-friendly Bible version.

Here is a discussion guide or talking points you can use for this study:

- ✓ The KJV Bible says "*Thou shalt not kill.*" Is God's intent in this commandment that we should not kill animals? How would you use the story of Cain and Abel defend your answer?
- ✓ Cain and Abel were showing their love and respect for God by giving an offering. This was one way people worshiped God at that time.
- ✓ God wanted animal sacrifices because they were symbolic of the sacrifice Jesus would make for mankind. So whose offering was pleasing to God?
- ✓ Discuss why you think Abel's sacrifice was more pleasing to God than Cain's?
- ✓ Was Cain happy that God was pleased with his brother Abel? Can you think why he may not have been happy?
- ✓ How would you define the word "jealousy"?
(If needed, give a kid-friendly definition. Include such concepts as being resentful and envious of someone's success, achievements or things; comes from suspicious fears or envious resentment.)
- ✓ Instead of being happy for his brother, or thinking of how his own offering could be better, Cain became jealous of his brother and was very unhappy.

- ✓ Ask members of the family if they have ever been jealous of someone. What attitudes did it generate? (It is not unusual for a child to take a toy, i-pad, etc. from another family member or friend – causing a fight or war of words to break out. This is very similar to what happened with Cain & Abel).
- ✓ What could Cain have done to make things better between him and God? (**Genesis 4:6-7**)
- ✓ Do you think God was fair with Cain? Did He treat Abel as His favorite? Talk about why God may not have been pleased with Cain. Show from verse 7 that God does not show favoritism, but is very fair.
- ✓ What do you think is going to happen next? Will Cain tell God he is sorry for feeling this way? Will Cain apologize to his brother? [Read verse 8.] Being jealous can bring feelings of anger and hatred and even end up hurting others, even family members.
- ✓ Did Cain try to lie his way out of his sin? [Read verses 9-12.] Cain ended up receiving a curse to show that jealousy and envy can lead to hatred and murder, which is wrong.
- ✓ What should Cain have done? Cain should have tried to give a right offering in the first place and then change when he learned God was not happy. He should not have been jealous of his brother for his brother's good deed.
- ✓ At what point in this story would you say Cain violated the 6th commandment? Where in this story could Cain have made a different decision?
- ✓ Can you think of a time when you had an opportunity to make a different decision? How did your choice at that point make a difference in what happened at the end?

New Testament Example

Jesus' New Testament Teachings

Jesus warned that if we get angry without cause we are in danger of being punished. If we hate our brother, God calls us a murderer. We can violate God's Law by attitude and intent.

Matthew 5:21-24 *"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' "But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire. Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."*

1. What does "Raca" mean? What does the word "fool" mean?
2. What does it mean to "be in danger of the judgment"?
3. Why is the penalty for calling someone a "fool" so severe?
4. Why should murder and being angry with a brother have the same penalty?
5. Compare this verse with **Ephesians 4:26**. Why is there no contradiction between this verse and **Matthew 5:22**?
6. Why is it so important to God that we live in peace with one another?
Romans 12:18 *If possible, so far as it depends on you, live in peace with all people. ISV*
Luke 6:27-28 *"But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you."*
7. If Cain had used this attitude, how would it have changed his entire life?
8. What do these verses teach us about using personal hurts and how that is spiritual "murder"?
9. Is it easy to follow this commandment taught by Jesus? What has been your experience? Do you think such love is natural? If not, where does one get such love?

Jesus's life while on this earth

A good example to discuss from the New Testament is the character assassination against Jesus Christ. Beginning with His birth until his death the Pharisees would find ways to talk badly about Him or accuse Him of breaking God's laws or misinterpreting the Bible.

How did Jesus respond? **1 Peter 2:21-24**

Summary: Jesus magnified the sixth commandment by showing that the proper attitude towards human beings is more than just refraining from killing those who try to harm you. We need to be happy when someone does good things or has things or is honored. We should not be jealous of others. Remember Cain and his attitude toward his brother. Remember Christ's example while he was on earth.

Since Jesus came to save man's life – who are we to take that life away?

Family Discussion Questions:

- ✓ How do you define "murder"? Murder is the killing of another person. Murder begins with hate and complete disregard for a precious life that God gave to humans. To murder is to not show love.
- ✓ Discuss how the sixth commandment could be stated positively? Consider **Leviticus 19:16-18**.
- ✓ Why is human life sacred?
Genesis 1:27 *So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*
John 3:16 *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*
- ✓ Why would the 6th commandment not apply to taking animal or plant life?
- ✓ What situations can you think of when killing is not murder?
- ✓ Why is it important to have consequences for law breaking when people break laws? What would happen if we did not have laws against killing another person?
- ✓ Would recklessly endangering a person's life violate this commandment? Why or why not?
- ✓ What does "jealousy" mean? Think about how you might be jealous of someone (a sibling, friend or classmate). What should you do about that? Talk about how God's way is not being jealous. How does thankfulness help us in these situations?
- ✓ Give an example from the life of Jesus or Paul where they did not get angry when someone treated them badly. How did they react instead? Do you think you could do that?
- ✓ Why is gossip, slander, and making fun of someone a type of murder?
- ✓ Discuss how Christ's reputation and character were "murdered" – and how he reacted.

⇒ If you are keeping a journal, as a family write your thoughts about the 6th commandment.

Additional Family Resources:

- UCG Study Booklet "The Ten Commandments" <https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/the-ten-commandments>

Optional Classroom Activities

1. Discussion: Bullying

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose.

--US Department of Health and Human Services

What do people do when they bully someone? Bullying often involves name-calling and spreading hurtful information (true or false) about others. Wouldn't ridicule and putting someone down like this be like calling someone a fool? **Talk about bullying—whether one is being bullied, bullying others, or witness bullying.** Read and consider: **Matthew 5:21-22**

- Find more resources on bullying at <https://www.stopbullying.gov/index.html>
- **Nick Vujcic Video on Bullying:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qrE2hmlTVoNick>— Watch the video and discuss how it ties to Matthew 5:21

2. Discuss these scenarios:

- A kid on the bus is being mean to you and calling you names. It makes you so mad and you want to hurt him. What should you do and think before you act by pushing him or calling him names back? What commandment should we be thinking of? How should we react to anger-provoking situations? Is it hard to control anger? Why or why not?
- You're really close with your group of friends. One person in the group starts to regularly gossip about another friend in your group, and even admits to anonymously posting mean comments on social media about the way your friend looks. How do you handle the situation? You realize that you have been bullying people in order to feel better about yourself or have control. What do you do now?

3. Discuss these two children's actions:

Joan tries to be friendly with everyone and lets others make decisions when they are playing even if that wasn't what she wanted to do. Ginny gets mad at people a lot and often stomps away yelling "I hate you!"

4. Practice Obedience Game

Option 1: Make a big red card and a big green card. Instruct the children that when you hold up a green card they can take one step and if you hold up a red card they have to stay in one place. Play until the children end up at a designated line.

Option 2: Create different situations where someone either is or is not obeying the Sixth Commandment. Each child can hold a red square of construction paper and a green square. If the commandment is obeyed, they should hold up the green paper. If it is violated in the scenario, then they should hold up the red paper.

Two Challenging Conversations for families with older teens. See below.

I. Challenging Conversation: Suicide “stealing” a person’s life by taking it away.

What does God think about suicide?

- **God has a great plan for your life.** God has created us in His image (**Genesis 1:26-27**). He created us for a purpose. God has a specific plan in mind for everyone.
Jeremiah 29:11 *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future*
- **God's plan is for life, not death.** The Bible teaches that both physical and spiritual death is the result of our sin and disobedience to God, but eternal life is a gift to those who receive it.
Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
- **Jesus taught that death and destruction are the work of “the thief” (Satan).** He said,
John 10:10 *The thief comes only to steal and destroy*
John 8:44 *says that Satan is a “murderer” and the “father of lies.”*
The feelings of despair that lead to suicide are caused by some of his lies.
- **Jesus wants us to have life.** He said,
John 10:10 *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full*
- **Life belongs to God.** It is never our place to take our own life or someone else's life.
1 Corinthians 6:19-20 *Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own, you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body*

Suicide is not a new idea. The Bible records seven suicides.

Name	Bible verse	Issues dealing with
Abimelech	Judges 9:52-54	Abimelech lacked personal identity.
Samson	Judges 16:25-30	Samson died for a cause he believed in and for revenge.
Saul	1 Samuel 31:4	Saul was stressed out, unable to live up to certain expectations; felt rejected and a failure.
Saul's armor-bearer	1 Samuel 31:5	Impulse, he wanted to die with his boss. 40% of teenage suicide is impulse.
Ahithophel	2 Samuel 17:23	Ahithophel was bitter because his advice was not followed.
Zimri	1 Kings 16:15-20	Rebellion; Zimri had a problem with authority.
Judas	Matthew 27:3-5	Depressed, Judas felt trapped by materialism and guilt.

II. Challenging Conversation: Abortion

{This can lead to discussion to other commandments – Adultery and Lust}

Is abortion wrong? What does God's Word tell us? Some questions to consider.

- ✓ Is abortion always wrong – always murder?
- ✓ What about when there has been incest?
- ✓ What about when there is a rape? "Does a "rape baby" have the right to live?"
- ✓ Is abortion Ok if it will save the mother's life?
- ✓ God is the creator of life and He views every life as precious.
- ✓ Does God approve of abortions? Is an abortion actually murder?

It is important to understand here that sin is sin – and that ALL sin will be forgiven upon repentance. God forgives the sin of murder in any form once a person turns to Him.

John 8:1-12 :11 *And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."*

Psalms 127:3 *Children are a gift from God, they are His reward...*

- ✓ Why would we want to destroy a reward from God?

Exodus 21:22-23

- ✓ What does this tell us about the killing of an unborn child?

Jeremiah 1:4-5 (NIV) *The word of the LORD came to me, saying,⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."*

Isaiah 44:2 *This is what the Lord says– he who made you, who formed you in the womb, and who will help you...*

Isaiah 44:24 *This is what the Lord says– your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: I am the Lord, who has made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself,*

Isaiah 49:5 *And now the Lord says– he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord and my God has been my strength—*

Job 10:10-12 *As cheese is made from milk, you created my body from a tiny drop¹¹ Then you tied my bones together with muscles and covered them with flesh and skin.¹² You, the source of my life, showered me with kindness and watched over me.*

Psalms 22:9-10 (AMP) *Yet You are He Who took me out of the womb; You made me hope and trust when I was on my mother's breasts.¹⁰ I was cast upon You from my very birth; from my mother's womb You have been my God.*

Psalms 71:6 (AMP) *Upon You have I leaned and relied from birth; You are He Who took me from my mother's womb and You have been my benefactor from that day. My praise is continually of You.*

Psalms 127:3 (AMP) *Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.*

Psalms 139:13 (AMP) *For You did form my inward parts; You did knit me together in my mother's womb.*

Resources:

- <http://marcusfryman.blogspot.com/2009/02/10-reasons-why-abortion-is-wrong.html>
- [Impossible Task: Explaining abortion to kids. www.freerepublic.com/focus/news/830540/posts](http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/news/830540/posts)

Parents you can use these worksheets to discuss challenging situations. Review examples from the bible and then discuss ways to handle the challenging things that come up in our own lives. What does God want us to think or do?

Name Ex.(Job, David, Rahab)	Scripture	The Issues (How did they handle it)

A Situation that you/family/member/friend are dealing with	Scripture	Message
My sin is too great to be forgiven. There is no hope	Rom. 5:8-10	There is hope because God loves us, even while a sinner and as an enemy.