

5th Grade

Unit 7: The Ten Commandments

Truth 48: God commands us not to murder.

INTRODUCTIONS/ WEEKLY TRUTH:

- **Booklet:** Write today's truth: [God commands us not to murder.](#)

MEMORY WORK: Lead the group in a discussion about why memorization is important when it comes to scripture and other important works of faith. See if they remember the following points:

- **Booklet:** Have kids write the unit Bible verse: [Matthew 22:37-39 ~ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'](#)
- **Game:** Reinforce the verse for today by using one of the activities in the Memory Verse Activity Box.

BIBLE TRIVIA

- **Booklet:** Have kids fill in the blanks for the following Bible trivia and then go over the answers as a class.
 - [46. Jesus taught people how to live in order to please God.](#)
 - [47. Jesus taught lessons using parables, which are short stories. His own disciples didn't always understand the meaning behind the stories.](#)
 - [48. The religious leaders did not like the message of salvation that Jesus brought. They would try to trap Him by asking tricky questions.](#)
 - [49. Jesus predicted His own death many times, but no-one understood until it happened.](#)
- **Game:** Reinforce today's trivia by doing an activity from the Trivia list. Add in any previously learned trivia from the list in your leader's guide.

APOSTLE'S CREED: Recite the Apostle's Creed together.

DISCUSSION:

Read Genesis 1:27.

[What does this verse teach us about the inherent value of all people?](#) (Every single person was intentionally designed and created by God and made in His image. God has bestowed each person with great value.)

[In light of people being created in the image of God, why would murder be such a terrible act?](#) (Help kids to see that intentionally and maliciously taking a life created by God and modeled after his image is deeply sinful.)

Read James 1:14-15.

[How do these verses show us how something as terrible as murder can happen?](#) (Help kids to understand that sin is progressive in nature; if we allow ourselves to think hatefully about someone, this attitude can continue to grow into something more severe and can eventually lead to ever-deepening sin, even horrible acts like murder.)

Read Matthew 5:21-22 & 5:43-48.

Jesus says that it is not only murder, but even anger that makes us liable to judgement. How does this relate to the verses we just read in James 1:14-15? (Because sin is progressive, we should not even allow ourselves to stay angry at someone.)

In these passages, what does Jesus teach us to do if we find ourselves hating someone? (He teaches us to love our enemies and pray for them. Point out to kids that love is the opposite of hate and is the antidote to hate. When sin entered the world, we began to hate. But God's original design was to "love one another, just as I have loved you.")

Extended Discussion: Engage the kids in a conversation about conflict and anger. Help them to understand that our sinful nature sometimes seeks anger out and makes anger feel good. Jesus teaches us how to have self control and to let go of that anger instead. This is impossible if we are alone, so we should always ask the Holy Spirit to help cleanse us of our anger and hatred toward others. Have the kids think of a specific situation that they can easily feel angry about and write a short prayer in their booklets asking the Holy Spirit to help them.

Summary: At the beginning of creation, God made a beautiful, wonderful world, and He declared it all good. Adam and Eve were living peacefully and with love for one another in the Garden of Eden. When sin entered the world, one of the first tragic results was a murder. While it is easy to think that we would never commit such an act, in James 1:14-15 we can see how something that begins as jealousy or anger can progress to murder. Jesus tells us to choose love over hate. 1 John 4:8 says, "Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love."

PRAYER: Ask kids if they have any prayer requests. Lead the kids in reciting the **Lord's Prayer** together, then pray as you feel led.

SNACK AND COMMUNITY TIME: Pass out snacks and water if needed. Spend the rest of the time in fellowship or consider doing a communal game from the list if kids are getting antsy and need more structure.

- **Memory Challenges:** Allow any kids who want to attempt one of the memory challenges to do so.

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Family Discussion Questions:

- How were we created?
- Why does this make taking a life especially wicked and sinful?
- What did Jesus tell us about murder?

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