



10 Ways to Wreck Your Life

Part 6 - Murder : An Inside Job

BREAKING THE ICE:

Do you enjoy watching horror movies? Why or why not

GO TO THE SOURCE : READ Exodus 20:13

DIG A LITTLE DEEPER:

The 6th commandment

- What is the 6th commandment?

- What does God mean by murder?
 - LEADERS NOTE: The King James Bible is translated as “do not kill”. This made sense in the English language when the KJV was translated in 1611. However, this is an inaccurate translation of the original Hebrew word.

- What is the difference between killing and murder?
 - LEADERS NOTE: To kill someone is not the same as murdering them according to the Bible. Kill could mean 3 things. 1- Taking any life of a human being or an animal. 2- Taking a human life deliberately or by accident. 3- Taking a human life legally or illegally, morally or immorally. Murder on the other hand can only mean one thing. The illegal and immoral taking of a human life. That’s why we say “ I killed a mosquito and not I murdered a mosquito”. Or we say “ the worker was accidentally killed and not accidentally murdered”.

- Does God allow any kind of killing? Give examples
 - LEADERS NOTE: The same part of the bible that contains the 10 commandments which is the 5 books of Moses or ‘ The Torah’, commands the following. 1- The death penalty for murder. 2- Allows killing in war. 3- Prescribes animal sacrifice 4- Allows eating meat

- Did God make a provision for unintentional killing or manslaughter? What was it?
 - LEADERS NOTE: Read Exodus 21:13. God made refuge areas where the person committing manslaughter was safe from an “avenger of blood” (family member of the one killed) until the matter was heard.

- Read Genesis 9:6. Why does God hold murder as such a great offense?
 - LEADERS NOTE: Because man is made in the image of God. This is a great opportunity to discuss the difference between how God views murder and an atheist or evolutionist sees murder. Example : PETA has a slogan that says “ a pig is a dog is a rat is a boy”, meaning that there is no distinction between humans and animals. The worldview of an evolutionist is that of the survival of the fittest. For an evolutionist to argue against injustice in this world, goes against their worldview.

- Do you support or oppose capital punishment? Explain
 - LEADERS NOTE: Go to Romans 13:1-4 and show what the bible says concerning the subject. Lead the discussion into the fact that God gives the responsibility to the people in society to enforce his law to put to death someone that has murdered another human. The bible does not say “ If anyone is a murderer I,God, will put him to death”.

Jesus helps us understand what it means to murder.

- Where does murder start?
 - LEADERS NOTE: Murder begins in the heart. Matthew 15:18-19 **18** But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. **19** For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.

- Read Matthew 5:21-22 and 1John 3:15, According to these verses, what are 3 ways in which we murder from the heart?

- LEADERS NOTE: 1- Anger : Jesus equates the consequences of anger toward others to the consequences of murder. This may seem harsh, but Jesus knows our hearts far better than we do. “The anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God” (James 1:19-20) . Human anger is the first stop on the line to murder, and to the Holy God, a step toward a sin is as bad as the sin itself. 2- Insults - Jesus goes on to point out that insults are even further down the road toward murder. Making someone feel small, worthless, and insignificant with words and actions is unrestrained anger giving its first blows.3- Hatred - Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. (1John 3:15) Hatred is a deep and abiding anger and disdain; it means that, not only have you given into anger, you feed it and help it grow. The apostle John tells us that hatred of another makes us a murderer. It is a sign that you are unrepentant and caught up in sin that violates the 6th commandment.

Dealing with the Issue

- What should be our response if someone is angry with us? Explain
 - LEADERS NOTE: Read Matthew 5:23-26. Jesus moves from talking about sins that violate the 6th commandment in Matthew 5:21-22 to talking about how to act if our *brother* has something against *us*. You might expect Jesus to instruct us about grudges we hold against others, but he doesn't. He also doesn't say, “If you legitimately wronged your brother.” It doesn't seem to matter whether we actually sinned against someone else, just that the other person is upset. The issue is not who is right, or even who sinned, but that the relationship is mended so that the sin of anger and bitterness do not cause anyone to stumble.

- What should be our response if we are angry at someone? Explain
 - LEADERS NOTE: Read Matthew 6:14-15. Jesus expects us to forgive. Through his sacrifice on the cross, Jesus has reconciled us to God, giving us his righteousness, and allowing for the forgiveness of our sins. There is no excuse for not forgiving the sins of others. Jesus even gives us instructions on how to go about being reconciled with the other person in Matthew 18:15-17.

- Why does God command that we forgive everyone in every situation?
 - LEADERS NOTE: There is freedom when we forgive.

- Are you holding a grudge against someone? Why have you struggled to let it go?

MAKE IT COUNT:

- Take time to see ask God to reveal to you any anger you may be harboring against someone

- Take steps prescribed in the bible to seek reconciliation and restitution where applicable