

God's Good Rules

Lesson 7

"Value Life - Do Not Kill"

Lessons from the Bible: Exodus 20:1-17

Review Commandments 1-4:

- The first 4 commandments teach us how to respect and honor God. Do you remember what they are?
- Put God first
 2. No fake gods
 3. Respect God's name
 4. Respect God's day of rest

The last 6 commandments are how we are to treat ourselves and others.

Last time we learned Commandment 5. Do you remember what it is?

- 5. Honor your father and mother

Today we are going to learn how to treat others:

God loves each & every one of us equally! I am sorry to tell you however that some people do not feel the same way. Sometimes people act like some people are worth more, are more important than others. They act like that by treating others unkindly, thinking mean thoughts about them, ignoring their needs, or even hurting them. That's pretty sad, isn't it? That leads us into today's lesson:

Commandment 6 – Do Not Kill (Murder)

Read: Exodus 20:13 -

- *"You shall not murder".*

That is a really short commandment!

In the original language, Hebrew, it's only two words, which pretty much translates to "no murder." Can it get any clearer than that?

Here's the thing. It's not very likely that any of you have murdered anyone or ever will murder anyone. Not many people will kill another human being. This commandment is a **rule from God** and it is a law in our country. Everyone, even people who don't believe in God, can agree that killing people is bad.

But this commandment is still for you, even as a kid. Because Jesus explained that it's about more than ending someone's life. The sixth commandment, "**don't murder,**" is about **valuing, honoring, and respecting life**. Let's see what Jesus has to say about this commandment.

Read: Matthew 5:21-22 –

- *"You have heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.'²² But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell."*

In these verses, Jesus tells us that murder is not just something we do to someone's body, but murder can be something we feel in our hearts or say with our mouths. Jesus is saying that any action or any thought that hurts another person is just as bad as murder. **Can anybody guess why? (Allow the kids to share their thoughts)**

You all have some good ideas. **All life is important to God because God created all life.** It does not make God happy when we do things to hurt or destroy his beautiful creations.

Just imagine how you would feel if you worked hard on a beautiful painting, only to have someone come and tear it in half! It would be very upsetting. Just think how much worse it is if we hurt a person.

Genesis 1:27 says that **God created people in his own image.** We are made to be like God. We are made to be kind and creative and loving. When we hurt others, we are not being kind or loving. We are not creating good things, we are destroying good things.

The Bible also tells us that God knows what we think in our hearts. Jeremiah 17:10a says, *"But I, the Lord, search all hearts and examine secret motives."*

If we let hatred and unkind words live in our hearts, they will grow like weeds, and turn into unkind actions. God knows what we think. And even the secret thoughts in our hearts are not a secret to God. He sees the good and the bad, and the bad thoughts about others in our hearts is sin.

Here's another verse that helps us understand this commandment a little better. 1 John 3:15 says, *"Anyone who hates another brother or sister is really a murderer at heart. And you know that murderers don't have eternal life within them."*

It sounds harsh, but here is the truth from the Bible. If you really hate someone, Jesus does not live in your heart. God's love is so big and so strong and so amazing, that it can't even be in the same place as hatred. If there is hatred in your heart, God's love for other people is not there. It's like two people trying to sit in the same chair. It just doesn't work so well.

Now before you get too worried about this, it is okay to be mad at others! Everyone gets mad sometimes. Ephesians 4:26-27 says, *"And 'don't sin by letting anger control you.' Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷for anger gives a foothold to the devil."*

It is when we stay angry or act mean or say unkind things that we are letting our anger take over, and that is when it becomes a problem. When we start to feel like we are getting angry and feel mean thoughts coming into our hearts, that is when **we need to stop and pray and ask God to forgive us and give us kind thoughts about others.**

Review:

So, we know that:

- **sixth commandment tells us to not murder.**
- We learned that murder is not only hurting someone's body, but it is also hurting their heart and God's heart with the unkind things we think and say. That is because each & every one of us is created special by God and he loves us all very much.
- So much, that John 3:16 says *"For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."*
- God loves us so much that he sent his Son to die for us. Jesus took all the unkind thoughts and words and actions on himself and let himself be murdered so we could be forgiven for every sinful thing we do, even when we hurt other people.
- So, instead of letting hatred and unkindness and murder live in our hearts, let's ask Jesus to live there instead. Then he will fill us with the fruit of the Spirit.
- Galatians 5:22-23 says: *"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!"*

- When those good things live in our hearts, there will be no room for murder and hate! Since Jesus died for us all, we value everyone's life. We do that by being kind to everyone.
- Before we move on to our craft time, I want us to think of some different examples of ways you might be unkind with your words or actions. We are going to make a list on the board about the different ways we might break the sixth commandment. I want to do this so we can all be aware of the ways that even you as kids might sin, that way you can watch out for temptation to sin and think hurtful thoughts about others or say mean things that show you don't love them and value them like God does.
- **Discuss** with your students what murder may look like in their lives.
- Some examples include: *sibling rivalry, hurting animals, teasing or bullying others, or disrespecting parents or grandparents, putting down opponents in sports or other competitions. It may even include neglecting to stand up for those who are being bullied, or not sitting with the lonely kid at lunch.*)
- End in prayer.

Craft: Kindness Cards

The message ended by discussing the ways students could break the sixth commandment. To close on a positive note, have students make notes to hide everywhere they go to lift people up and make them smile. They can color the front of the card on the back write another kind note or draw a happy picture.

They can give these cards to someone who needs a smile or someone they may have hurt, or they can hide the cards for others to find to brighten their day. Possibly in the school bathroom, at the library, or on their sibling's pillow. Have them come up with fun hiding places. Remind them that they have to be like kindness ninjas. They have to hide the notes for others to find, but no one can see them or find out it was them.

Print out the attached template of Kindness cards to color and cut out.

Decorate a jar or box to keep in their room to so cards are handy for them to get to.

10 Commandments in simple terms.

1. Put God first
2. No fake gods
3. Respect God's name
4. Respect God's day of rest
5. Honor & Obey your parents
6. **Do not kill people**
7. Respect marriage
8. Do not steal
9. Do not lie
10. Do not be jealous

Bible Verse | Psalm 119:1-2: **"Joyful are people of integrity, who follow the instructions of the Lord. Joyful are those who obey his laws and search for him with all their hearts."**

Activities: Practice "The Ten Commandments Boogie Song"

Video: The Ten Commandment Boogie:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2hB5Gqo8Vo>

Feel free to take a picture of their art work or share how your activity went!
Post it on our Facebook page or share it on GroupMe. Have a Blessed Day &
Week! Until we can meet again

~ *Teacher Chrissy*

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for the great craft ideas.



You make
me
smile



You have
a *great*
ATTITUDE



You are
a great
friend



You have
innovative
ideas



Your **SMILE**
brightens
my **DAY**



Something
wonderful
is about to
happen



You
inspire
OTHERS



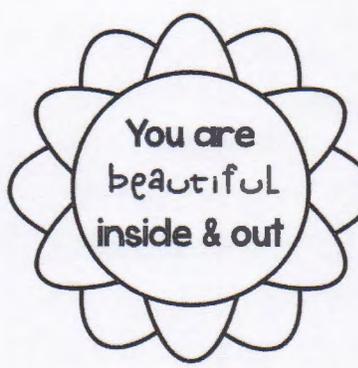
You always
make me
laugh



You
belong
& are
important



Thank you
for being
YOU



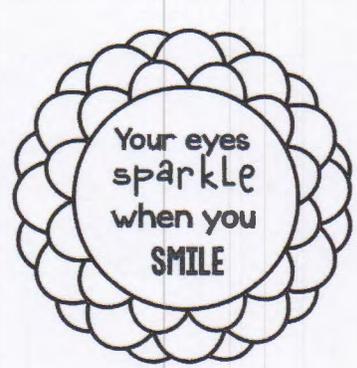
You are
beautiful
inside & out



Your
Ideas
matter



**THANK
YOU**



Your eyes
sparkle
when you
SMILE



You have
what it
TAKES



You make the
WORLD a
**BETTER
PLACE**



You are
AWESOME
just the way
you **ARE**



Smile...
You are
Loved



BELIEVE
in
YOURSELF



Embrace
your
UNIQUENESS

