



**CHRISTIAN
ENDEAVOUR**
for Christ and the Church



The Ten Commandments

Precious to God

You shall not murder

Exodus 20:13

Teaching Aim

To show why God forbids murder.

Setting the scene

Let's play the "Go till you guess" game to find the Bible Character who committed the sin we're going to talk about today.

- I was my parents' first born son.
- I was a farmer.
- My brother was a shepherd.
- I was very angry because God accepted my brother's offering but not mine.
- I killed my brother.

Who am I? Cain was the first man born and he was a murderer. Sadly, many have followed in his footsteps ever since.

Do not murder

Read Exodus 20:13. What does God say about murder? - He forbids it. Why is it wrong? - read Genesis 9:6b. God made each of us in His image and gave us life. Each person born is very precious to God so He looks on murder as a very serious sin. No-one has the right to take away life unless God or those acting on behalf of the law of the land. In Old Testament times life was considered as sacred and murder was one of the worst crimes that could be committed. Why do so many people commit murder? As time went on, people became greedy and jealous of others. They stopped fearing God and broke all His Commandments.

Why murder?

The Bible tells us people break the Sixth Commandments and other Commandments because of sin. Jesus says the devil was a murderer from the beginning - John 8:34. Can you remember what he did in the garden of Eden? - tempted Adam and Eve to eat the fruit God had forbidden. The result was that sin came into the world and, with it, suffering and death for everyone born after that. Let's find out why Cain killed his brother. - read Genesis 4:1-16. Cain was jealous of his brother because God accepted Abel's offering but did not accept his because it was not what God had commanded. Cain became angry with God and hated his brother so much that he killed him. Have you ever said something like, "I'll kill him if I get my hands on him", when someone has done something on you? Have you

called someone that you've had a row with a "fool"? Read Matthew 5:21-22 to see what God says about this kind of behaviour. God says that, if we're angry with people or call them names, this is as serious as murder. We have all broken this Commandment at some time so, in God's eyes, we are murderers.

How to avoid murder

In the Old Testament deliberate murder was punishable by death. In the New Testament Jesus referred to murderers several times and warned of the punishment they will receive - read Revelation 21:8. What is it? - eternal punishment. We must not treat murder lightly. Perhaps you have watched films in which the hero kills the bad guy and this is portrayed as good and heroic. Don't be taken in by this for, in real life, no-one has the right to do this. This Commandment applies as much to what you think as to what you do. None of you have killed anyone but you may be a murderer in God's eyes because you have been angry or jealous of someone or said nasty things about them or to them. Maybe some of you have tried to frighten or bully someone to get your own way. These are all wrong ways of behaving. If you are guilty of acting in any of these ways, you must ask God to forgive you and help you to show love to everyone, even those whom you find it hard to get on with. Read Proverbs 18:1 - what advice does this give about getting angry or losing your temper? Think before you say anything hurtful and stop angry thoughts before they make you do something really bad. If you have fallen out with someone, you need to make up quickly. Ask God to forgive you for hurting anyone by what you have done, said or thought and to give you the courage to say sorry to them. You also need to ask God for strength to keep this Commandment.

Summing up

God hates murder and He will punish anyone who commits this deed. He looks on angry thoughts and nasty name calling in the same way as He looks on the taking of someone's life. What does God see when He looks into your heart? If you know that you have broken this Commandment, ask God to forgive you and help you to obey it in future.

Resources

Memory Verse

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

Activities

- Under 8s Activity Sheet "Sixth Commandment You shall not murder - 1".
- Over 8s Activity Sheet "Sixth Commandment You shall not murder - 2".

Prayer Points

Thank God that:

- Each one of us is very special to Him.
- He helps us to overcome the temptation to think angry thoughts and say nasty things, if we ask Him.

Pray that:

- Those who have committed murder will repent.
- We will be careful about what we think and say about other people.

Precious to God

Unjumble

Unjumble the words in brackets to complete the sentences.

Adam's first son was called ____ (BEAL).

Adam's second son was called ____ (NIAC).

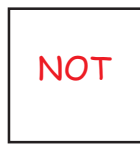
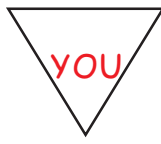
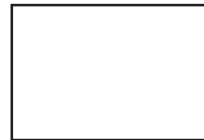
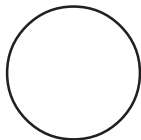
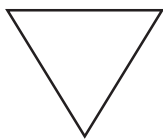
Abel kept _____ (SOCKLF).

Cain worked with the ____ (LIOS).

Cain _____ (DELLIK) his brother Abel.

Jig Saw Puzzle

Copy the words from the bottom shapes into the shapes above to find an important Bible verse.



Memory Verse

Complete the memory verse below by putting in the missing vowels (a,e,i,o,u).

Any_n_ wh_ h_tes h_s br_th_r _s a murd_rer, and y_u

kn_w th_t n_ m_rderer h_s etern_l l_fe _n h_m. 1 John 3:15

Precious to God

True or False

Colour in **T** if true or **F** if false.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Abel kept flocks and Cain grew crops. | T | F |
| 2. God accepted the offering of Cain. | T | F |
| 3. God asked Abel where his brother was. | T | F |
| 4. Cain told God his punishment was more than he could bear. | T | F |
| 5. Anyone who killed Cain would be punished seventy times more. | T | F |
| 6. Cain went and lived in the land of Canaan. | T | F |
| 7. Cain committed the first murder. | T | F |
| 8. God was angry with Cain. | T | F |

Fill a Gap

Fill the gaps in this passage using words from the list below:

flocks offering killed angry right Cain sin
brought brother worked Abel

Adam and Eve had two sons called _____ and _____. Now Abel kept f _____, and Cain w _____ the soil. Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an o _____ to the Lord but Abel b _____ fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favour on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favour. So Cain was very a _____. The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? If you do what is r _____, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, it is a s _____ and you must master it."

Now Cain said to his b _____ Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and k _____ him.