



Life Group Curriculum

All of the material in this guide is provided for fostering healthy discussion in your group. Discuss the questions out loud and hold each other accountable to Scripture memorization each week.

Week of March 22, 2020



Murder Begins in the Heart

Matthew 5:21-26

Pastor Jim Korth

Scripture Memorization: *Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. – Ephesians 4:32 (ESV)*

Discussion Questions:

- 1. If you could hang out with any cartoon character, who would you choose and why?**
(Start with this question to get people engaged. Do this first before asking for prayer requests or reading the Bible passage. It is especially important to get people talking for the virtual meeting.)
- 2. Read Matthew 5:21-22. Why does Jesus connect “anger” with “murder?”**
(An act of murder – the willful and intentional taking of a human life—begins with anger.)
- 3. Read the story of the first murder in Genesis 4:1-13. What do we see here that connects with Matthew 5:21?**
(We see anger on the part of Cain – and not necessarily directed at Abel exclusively. We also see that there is a consequence to murder.)
- 4. Is anger always sinful? Why or why not?**
(No, because the Bible speaks much about God’s anger, which is holy. Discuss the differences between divine anger, righteous anger, and sinful human anger).

5. **Why is it so easy for anger to deteriorate into name calling? Is it true that “sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me”?**
(Anger in our heart will desire to be expressed in some fashion. We almost feel like it is “okay” to do this to vent. In this passage, the words are more than hurtful to the person; they are hurtful to God who created people in his image and likeness.)
6. **Read Matthew 5:23-24. What do you observe about this text?**
(The focus is not on you having something against another person, but another person having something against you.)
7. **Does this mean we shouldn’t give an offering to the church until we have made things right with everyone we have offended?**
(No. It isn’t that kind of “offering,” but an offering of repentance or consecration. Now is a good time to remind people that church expenses go on even when we are not meeting in a building! But also, if they have needs due to cutbacks in work, let us know.)
8. **Read Matthews 5:25-26. Why is it so important that we get things settled before we stand before the judge?**
(At this point there is no room for negotiating. It is too late to make things right. Be ready, now.)
9. **Have you had a gospel conversation with anyone in the last seven days? Will you commit to doing so in the next week?**

****Be sure to check out the new [Family Worship Guide](#) for the *Sermon on the Mount*.**

**** Still need you to continue to turn in your Life Group attendance during this virtual time.**

**Virtual Church Service
Sunday | 10 am**



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