

Name: _____

Abiding Savior Free Lutheran Church Confirmation

The Fifth Commandment

After completing the lesson, the student will be able to:

- Know what the 5th Commandment is.
- Know what the 5th Commandment means for our lives.
- Describe circumstances when killing is permissible.
- State why God is against abortion and suicide.
- Positively apply the 5th Commandment.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

1. Use your catechism to write in the following information about the Fifth Commandment. Please copy it word for word below.

What is the Fifth Commandment?

What does this mean?

Fifth Commandment

The two greatest gifts God has given humanity is life (being created in His image) and salvation (life again!). If I were to give you a good gift -- like a car -- I would not desire for you to wreck that car but care for it and enjoy it. In the same way, God has given us life. It is a very good gift, and He desires for us to care for it -- both our life and the lives of others. Unfortunately, starting as early as Genesis 4 we see the first act of murder. What did Cain do when he became unhappy with his brother Abel? He killed him! From Genesis onward, man's history is full of murder and bloodshed.

2. Read the following Bible passages and write what God's Word defines as murder.

Matthew 5:21-23

1 John 3:15

3. Is there ever a time when killing is permitted? How does each of these verses answer that question?

Genesis 3:21

Genesis 9:3

Genesis 9:6

Matthew 26:52

Romans 13:1-5

From these verses we learn that there are indeed times when killing is permitted. One such example is of animals for the provision of food or clothing. A second is the when the government authorities are called upon to defend its people either through war or in capital punishment.

At times, the leaders of nations are called upon to defend their countries from aggression from other nations, this is often referred to as a “just war” (one waged defensively and not for the purpose of conquest, financial gain, or revenge). Also, governing authorities are granted the ‘power the sword’ which authorizes the use of capital punishment (killing of criminals as punishment for murder).

4. Who is the author of life itself? What do the following passages say about this?

Genesis 2:7

Job 33:4

Isaiah 42:5

Acts 17:25

5. If God is the author of life, it necessarily follows that He alone may take it (or He may take it through the authority of government). What do the following Scriptures say regarding this?

Deuteronomy 32:39

Job 13:15

Job 14:5

Acts 17:26

It is often asked if suicide is included in the 5th commandment. Suicide can be described as 'self-murder' and is the deliberate act of taking one's own life. It is often prompted by great despair, grief, or difficulty in one's life. Suicide is now the third leading cause of death for 15- to 19-year-olds, after accidents and homicide.

6. What does God's word say about suicide and your life and body? Read the following passages and write down your observations.

Psalm 24:1

Psalm 31:15

1 Corinthians 3:17

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

7. Is suicide against God's will for your life?

8. Do you personally know someone who has or attempted to commit suicide? What do you think leads to such action?

9. If you were speaking with someone who was considering suicide, what would you share with them?

10. What about abortion? Is this also prohibited in the Fifth Commandment? Read the following Bible passages note what they say regarding life.

Genesis 33:5

Job 10:9-11

Psalm 127:3-5

Psalm 139:13-17

Jeremiah 1:5

Matthew 19:14

The Bible is very clear in stating that the unborn are persons in God's eyes. From conception onward, we are to value, cherish, and preserve life. To willfully take the life of an unborn person is to break the Fifth Commandment. Since abortion became legal in 1973 (Roe. vs. Wade) over *59 million babies* have been aborted. Each one of these were humans who had been given the gift of life by God. Each one of these humans had their life taken from them because they were too weak to defend themselves.

11. Look up this website (<http://www.numberofabortions.com/>). Based on these numbers, how many humans were killed during the time it took you to complete this lesson (estimate)?

12. Do you know someone who has had an abortion? What led them to having an abortion?

Can God forgive someone who has had an abortion? Absolutely! God's mercy and forgiveness is for *all* sinners, not just some. We are all equally undeserving of His grace and yet in His love and kindness He forgives all who repent and believe in Christ Jesus. It's very important that we speak the truth boldly, but that we do so in love and grace. We always want to point people not to their own deeds, but to the work of Jesus Christ.

13. If you knew someone who was considering an abortion, what would you share with them?

14. If you knew someone who already had an abortion and is feeling a huge amount of sorrow and guilt over their actions, what would you share with them?

15. What then does God require of us in the Fifth Commandment? Read the following passages and note what God requires of us.

Matthew 5:44

Romans 12:20

Ephesians 4:32

As we observe from these texts I hope it is clear that not only are we to do our neighbor no harm, but we are to *help him* with all his physical needs. Not only are we not to murder or kill, but all the more we are to be merciful, loving, kind, patient, charitable, helping, and forgiving to all those around us.

A helpful summary of the Fifth Commandment is noted below.

1. OBVIOUS FORMS OF MURDER:

- a. Bring about death by our own hands.
- b. Bring about death through the hands of others.
- c. Bring about death by our carelessness.
- d. Bringing about death to ourselves [suicide].

2. LESS OBVIOUS FORMS OF MURDER:

- a. Making a person's life shorter by our actions.
- b. Making a person's life bitter or difficult.
- c. Harming or hurting a person's body.

3. LEAST OBVIOUS FORMS OF MURDER:

- a. Neglecting to help those in physical need.
- b. Hatred of another person for any reason.

Student & Parent Questions: *for the student and a parent to discuss and answer together*

1. Two ways Jesus defines a murderer is “whoever hates his brother” (I John 3:15) and “whoever is angry at his brother without cause” (Matthew 5:21-22). Are hatred or anger common emotions in your home? If so, what is one step you can take to remove or lessen their occurrence?

2. What is one way your family could help protect and advocate for life in our culture today?

STUDENT & PARENT SIGNATURE:

By signing below, we affirm (1) this lesson is complete and that (2) we completed the “Student & Parent Questions” section together

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____