

NAME _____

Confirmation Independent Study/Make-up Lesson

Session 6: Mercy and Justice

1. Remember how the LORD God gave the Ten Commandments to the nation Israel because he wanted to make them a source of blessing for all the other nations on earth. He wanted the other nations to be amazed by how just and righteous the laws and decrees of Israel were.

Read Exodus 20:13. What is prohibited in this commandment? _____

2. Read Numbers 35:6-30.

- a. What was the penalty for someone who *intentionally* killed another person? (vv. 16-21)

- b. Where was a person to go who *accidentally* killed another person? (vv. 9-12, 22-25)

- c. According to these rules, how many witnesses are required before an accused person can be found guilty and put to death as a murderer (v. 30)?

- d. Circle the letter of the statement that accurately completes this sentence: *"In this passage God's law . . .*

A. . . . *forbids every instance of taking a human life."*

B. . . . *forbids murder but allows the death penalty."*

C. . . . *only allows police officers to execute murderers."*

3. Read Genesis 9:6. FYI *This is just after the flood, when God gave Noah some basic laws to govern society with a new start.*

What reason is given here for using the death penalty against someone who murdered another human being?

YIKES! *Did you know that in the Old Testament laws given by Moses, all of these crimes/sins could be punishable by death?*

- premeditated murder
- kidnapping
- adultery
- prostitution
- homosexual intercourse
- incest
- rape
- striking or cursing parents
- profaning the Sabbath
- blasphemy (misusing God's name)
- magic and divination
- sacrificing to false gods
- offering human sacrifice

4. Based on what you've just read from the Old Testament, do you think the death penalty is fair, or unfair? Explain. _____

5. Read Matthew 5:21-22
- Jesus identifies an emotion that can possibly lead to murder. What is it? _____
 - In your own words, how would you explain why Jesus would say that name calling, bullying, or verbal abuse could break the commandment, "Do not murder"? _____

6. Read Matthew 5:38-45
- How does Jesus want us to treat our enemies? _____

 - If we do good to those who hate us, who are we imitating? _____
7. Read Matthew 7:12.
- Write out the words of the principle that says to do the opposite of murder (not to mention stealing and other commands): _____

 - Fill in the blank: Matthew 7:12 is known as the "_____ " rule.
8. If someone does something mean to you, how does it feel to get back at them?

9. Read Romans 12:17-21 and Romans 13:1-6.
- Which of these passages talks about who God appointed to punish criminals?

 - Which of these passages talks about showing kindness to evildoers instead of revenge? _____
 - Who or what does God use to punish evildoers?
 - Civil Government
 - the Church, followers of Christ

- d. Who does God use to show kindness or mercy to evildoers?
- Civil Government
 - the Church, followers of Christ
- e. True or False Understanding the different ways God works through the Church and Civil Government helps explain how God can be forgiving and punishing at the same time.
- f. True or False Police persons don't represent God on earth at all by doing their job and protecting citizens from crime, but only when they are off duty and being part of a church where Jesus Christ is Lord.
- g. When you get angry because someone wronged you or someone you loved, what does God want you to do with that anger? (See 12:19)_____
- _____

10. Match the correct definition by writing into the blank either "mercy" or "justice":

- a. _____ God punishes those who do wrong without excuse.
- b. _____ God forgives and is kind to those who did wrong.

11. Which approach do you think will be more effective *in the long run* in stopping evil in the world: "overcoming evil with good" (Romans 12:21), or "bringing punishment on the wrongdoer" (Romans 13:4)? Explain your answer.

12. Do you think the world is more violent now than it was 50 years ago? _____

100 years ago? _____ 500 years ago? _____

13. Read 1 John 4:18

- a. Which motive is stronger in the person who has the righteousness of Jesus Christ:
 fear love?
- b. When have you been most likely to experience fear? _____
- _____
- c. Write a simple prayer to overcome fear based on 1 John 4:8: _____
- _____

14. This is explanation to the 5th commandment given in the *Small Catechism*: **“We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt our neighbor in any way, but help him in all his physical needs.”**

a. List two ways you could possibly hurt another person (what not to do):

b. List three ways you could possibly help another person with his or her physical needs (what to do):

15. Read Jeremiah 1:5

True or False: God wants us to protect the lives of unborn persons because he knows before they are born what purpose he has for them.

16. When some teenager or young adult goes on a killing spree, it is sometimes suggested that they may have been influenced by violent movies and video games.

a. In your opinion, is it wrong for kids to play very violent video games? Explain.

b. In your opinion, is it wrong to *enjoy* the violence in movies? Explain.

17. Give an example of how a person might break this commandment, “Do not murder,” through inaction, not doing anything at all? _____

18. Think about the last week, and answer the question: “*Have I treated others like I want them to treat me?*” (Place a mark on the line.)

all the time

pretty much

not so much

19. Read James 5:14-16, and summarize in your own words: