

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Day 1: The Sanctity of Human Life

Reading: Genesis 1:26-31, Psalm 139:13-16

Today we reflect on the profound truth that every human being is created in God's image. This divine imprint gives each life inherent worth and dignity. As you read about God's creation of humanity, consider how this truth should shape your interactions with others. How might you honor God's image in those around you today, even in challenging relationships? Pray for eyes to see the sacred value in every person you encounter.

Day 2: God's Justice and Mercy

Reading: Exodus 20:13, Romans 3:21-26

The command "You shall not murder" reveals God's heart for justice and the preservation of life. Yet we all fall short of God's perfect standard. Today's reading in Romans reminds us that God's justice and mercy meet at the cross of Christ. Reflect on areas where you may harbor anger or resentment towards others. Ask God to soften your heart and fill you with His love and forgiveness. How can you extend God's mercy to someone in your life today?

Day 3: Transformation into Christ's Image

Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:17-18, Colossians 3:9-10

As believers, we are called to be transformed into the image of Christ. This is a lifelong process of allowing the Holy Spirit to shape us. Consider areas in your life where you've seen growth and change. Where do you still struggle to reflect Christ's character? Spend time in prayer, asking God to continue His transforming work in you. What is one practical step you can take today to align your actions more closely with Christ's example?

Day 4: Valuing All Human Life

Reading: James 3:7-12, Matthew 5:21-22

Jesus expands our understanding of the command against murder to include our words and attitudes. Our speech has the power to build up or tear down. Reflect on how you use your words. Are there ways you've devalued others through gossip, insults, or harsh criticism? Ask God for wisdom to use your speech to bring life and encouragement. Choose one person today to intentionally build up with your words.

Day 5: Representing God in the World

Reading: Matthew 5:13-16, 1 Peter 2:9-12

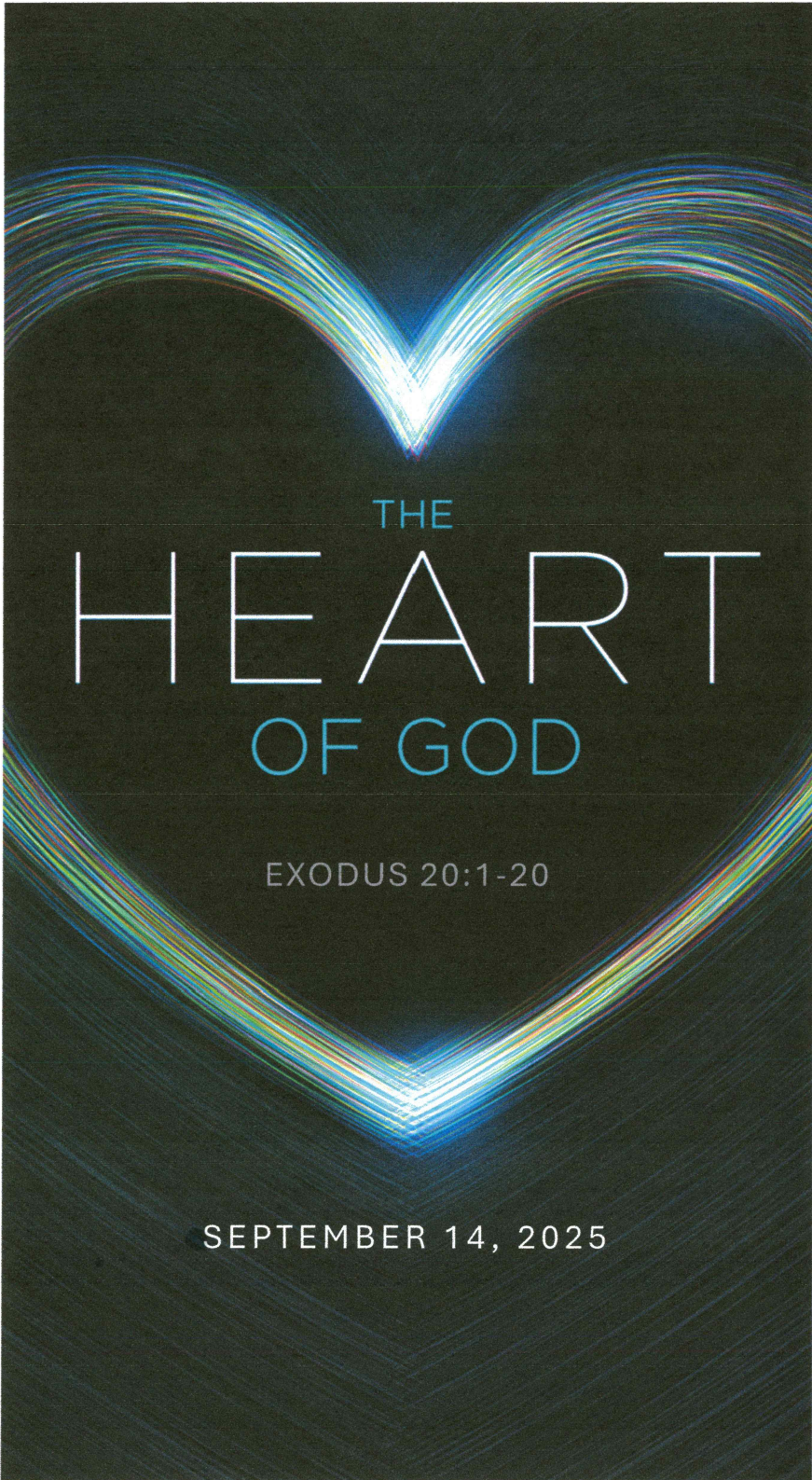
As God's image-bearers, we are called to represent Him in the world. This involves both our character and our actions. How can you be "salt and light" in your specific circumstances? Consider your workplace, neighborhood, or family. What would it look like to live in a way that draws others to God? Pray for opportunities to reflect God's love and truth to those around you. End your devotional time by committing to one specific act of kindness or service that represents God's character to others.

DEACONS ON CALL

Danny Bell and John Gray

SCHEDULED EVENTS

- **WORSHIP:** Sundays at 9:45 AM
- **SMALL GROUPS:** Sundays at 11 AM
- **DEEP DIVE:** Wednesdays at Noon & 6:45 PM
- **FIRST KIDS:** Wednesdays at 5:30 PM
- **FIRST YOUTH:** Wednesdays at 5:30 PM



Days of our Lives / Exodus 20:13

In a world where violence and disregard for human life seem all too common, it's crucial to revisit one of the most fundamental commandments: "You shall not murder." This simple yet profound directive carries deep implications for how we view and treat one another as human beings.

I. What does this command NOT mean?

- 1. It is not prohibiting the _____.
- 2. It is not prohibiting _____.
- 3. It is not prohibiting _____.
- 4. The Bible distinguishes carefully between:
 - a. Murder - killing with intent (Exodus 21:12-14; Numbers 35:16-21)
 - b. Manslaughter - killing due to negligence (Exodus 21:28-30; Deuteronomy 22:8)
 - c. Accidental killing (Numbers 35:22-25; Deut. 19:4-5; Joshua 20:2-3)
 - d. Killing in self-defense (Exodus 22:2; Jeremiah 2:34-35)

II. Why is murder wrong?

- 1. We are _____.
- 2. To be _____ is to be God’s imager.
- 3. God shares His _____ with us.
- 4. Jesus is the _____ imager of God.

III. Being one of God’s imagers means ...

- 1. The _____ we make matter.
- 2. Human life, from conception to death, is .

Scripture References (In order of use): Genesis 9:2-6; Leviticus 24:17; Romans 13:4; Ecclesiastes 3:8; Exodus 21:12-14; Numbers 35:20-21; Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 1:31; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1:3; Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18
Referenced Works: The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge (Canne, Browne, Blayney, Scott); Be Delivered (Warren Wiersbe); Ten Values that Build Strong Families (Rick Warren); Exodus (John Mackay); The Message of Exodus (Alec J. Motyer); Exodus (Peter Enns); Exodus & Leviticus (B. H. Carroll)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What was your initial understanding of the commandment "You shall not murder" before hearing this sermon?
- 2. Read **Exodus 20:13**. Is there anything from the sermon you would like to discuss?
- 3. How does understanding the difference between "kill" and "murder" change your perspective on this commandment?
- 4. The sermon mentions several things the commandment does not prohibit (killing animals, capital punishment, war). Do you agree or disagree with these interpretations? Why?
- 5. What does it mean to you personally to be an "imager of God"? How does this concept impact your view of yourself and others?
- 6. How does the idea that all humans are God's imagers challenge societal issues like racism, injustice, or abuse of power?
- 7. Brother Patrick said, "We are a glimpse either of life with God or of a life without God. There's no middle ground." Discuss what this means in practical terms for our daily lives.
- 8. Read **Colossians 1:15-20**. How does Jesus being the "perfect imager" of God inform our understanding of how we should live our lives and treat others?
- 9. Have you updated your Oikos List lately?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

- This week, consciously look for opportunities to treat others as fellow "imagers of God," especially those you might typically overlook or struggle to connect with.
- Reflect on areas in your life where you might be abusing power or authority. How can you adjust your behavior to better represent God?
- Choose one way you can actively work against injustice or racism in your community, workplace, or personal relationships.
- Spend time in prayer, asking God to help you see yourself and others as He sees them - as valuable bearers of His image.