



*Don't forget to stay
**connected during
the week!***

The youth group is on pause until August. Thank you for your understanding,
see you soon!

Would you like to serve and see what God can do IN you and THROUGH you?
We would like to talk to you. Let us know through your connection card or in
person with one of our leaders..

A big part of our church's DNA is going out to serve to those in need, so we
want to invite you to link arms with us as we serve our community. Stay tune
for our next community service events.

Groups at Playas Church are about to begin — fill out your connection card
and join this season of growing in community.

Backpack Giveaway (Saturday, August 16): We're blessing families in our
community! If you'd like to serve or support, sign up using the connection
card. You can make a difference!

Sunday the 17th is going to be a special day: we're having baptisms and a
water day! 💧🔥 Get ready to celebrate what God is doing and have an
amazing time with the community. Mark your calendar! 🙌



Hello!

Glad to see you!



DO NOT MURDER

"Do not murder."

Exodus 20:13 (NIRV)

What is murder?

לֹא תִרְצַח (lō' rātsach - no murder) to slay, to murder, homicide, the unlawful or unnecessary taking of human life

- All murder is killing, but not all killing is murder.

When is killing not murder?

- **SELF-DEFENSE** is not murder. (Exodus 22:2-3, Exodus 2:11-15, Acts 7:24-25)
- **JUSTIFIED WAR** is not murder. (Psalm 144:1-2, Deuteronomy 20)
- **CAPITAL PUNISHMENT** is not murder. (Genesis 9:6, Romans 13:4)

Why is murder wrong?

- All people are created in **GOD'S IMAGE**, and all life is precious to God.

Now let Us conceive a new creation—humanity—made in Our image, fashioned according to Our likeness. And let Us grant them authority over all the earth—the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, the domesticated animals and the small creeping creatures on the earth. 27 So God did just that. He created humanity in His image, created them male and female.

Genesis 1:26-27 (VOICE)

You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. 15 You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. 16 You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

Psalms 139:13-16 (NLT)

What is the deeper issue here?

- Jesus cares about our **HEARTS** as much as our **HANDS**.

"You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell."

Matthew 5:21-22 (NIV)

NOTES



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does recognizing every human as made in the image of God shape your view on violence, justice, or punishment? Consider how Genesis 1 and Psalm 139 emphasize the sacredness of human life. How might this understanding influence your thoughts on current issues like abortion, war, or the death penalty?
2. Where do you see the line between defending life and taking life? How do you personally discern when taking a life may be morally justifiable?
3. Matthew 5 teaches that harboring anger or speaking with contempt is spiritually dangerous. What kinds of anger or contempt live in your heart that Jesus might be calling you to confront? Are there relationships or situations where you need healing, forgiveness, or repentance?
4. Reflect on how Jesus redirects the command "do not murder" to address our attitudes and motivations. In what ways is God inviting you to pursue a heart that honors life—not just with your actions, but with your inner life? In what ways as Christians can we preserve, protect, and promote life, i.e., human flourishing?

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES BOOKS:

- Good and Beautiful and Kind: Becoming Whole in a Fractured World by Rich Villodas
 - The Deeply Formed Life by Rich Villodas
 - Ten Words to Live By: Delighting In and Doing What God Commands by Jen Wilkin
 - Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today by Adam Hamilton
- Articles:
- Scott Sauls: Toward a More Comprehensive Pro-Life Vision
 - The Gospel Coalition - Just War
 - The Gospel Coalition: Thinking Through Old Testament Violence



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