

**Tennessee Right to Life
SANCTITY OF LIFE CURRICULUM
GRADE 4-WEEK 2
YOU SHALL NOT MURDER**

PERSPECTIVE FOR THE TEACHER

Last week, you helped your students to understand that life is one of our greatest gifts from God, no matter how long or short it may be. You talked with them about natural and accidental death and that these occur in God’s own time, and you showed them that this kind of death is part of the continuum of life--another step on our journey to God. You spent some time using an obituary with an emphasis on the contributions that person made to the world. This week you will introduce your students to the concept of murder, the intentional taking of life, using the story of Cain and Abel. You will lead your students to see how grave a sin murder is to God, because every life is precious to Him. You will help your students grasp that murder robs the world of the great gifts and contributions God intended for that person to make. This is an important concept for your students to understand before we begin our discussion of abortion in fifth grade.

SCRIPTURES: Genesis 1:27; 4:3-5, 8-12 Jeremiah 29:11-14 Exodus 20:13

Memory verse: *“Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. Before you were born, I set you apart for a special work.”*

Jeremiah 1:5 (International Children’s Bible: New Century Version)

LESSON GOALS:

- To provide students opportunities to share the contributions they have discussed with their parents, using the take home assignment from last week
 - To help students recognize that murder is a grave sin in God’s eyes
 - To show them how Jesus triumphed over sin, even the sin of murder, and over death itself, when He died and rose from the dead for us
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THIS LESSON SHOULD HELP STUDENTS:

- Recognize that they are already making important contributions to the lives of others.
 - Value the contributions that others have made to their lives.
 - Understand that murder is a grave sin in God’s eyes.
 - Experience the hope that comes from the realization that Jesus triumphed over the sin of murder and over death itself, by His death and resurrection.
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VISUALS/SPECIAL PREPARATIONS:

- The *Continuum of Life* banner
 - Copy of the Take Home Sheet from Week 1
 - Memory verse written on the board
 - Bookmark Prayer (to be used as the closing prayer in the lesson)
 - A Bible with Genesis 4:3-5 and 8-12 marked
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TAKE HOME MATERIALS:

- *Thou Shalt Not Kill* worksheet
- *For I Know the Plans that I have for You* bookmark

TEACHING THE LESSON**A. Introduction****1. Review**

Last week we talked about how important each life is to God. Do you remember Baby Hope? What important things did we learn about Baby Hope last week? (*Let students respond and then summarize.*) So we can say that every life, no matter how long or how short (like Baby Hope's life), is very precious to God. Each person, no matter how young or how old, has important work that God created them to do.

Now let's talk about some of the contributions you talked about with your parents. Did any of you remember to bring back your take home sheets? Let's get them out now. Would anyone like to tell us what their parents thought were your contributions? (*Allow students to share - perhaps you could share what your family told you about your important contributions to their lives. Then ask them to share what they learned from the obituary they studied with their parents at home- perhaps the contributions of one of their own ancestors.*) So we can see from all of this that it is true that each person has important contributions to make and that each life is precious to God and to others, too. Let us take time now to thank God for His gift of life:

2. Opening Prayer

Father, we thank You for this precious gift of life. We thank You for the work You have given each of us to do. Help us to remember how precious every life is in your plan. Help us to obey Your commandments so that we may take the best care of this gift of life. Show us how to care for one another the way You care for us. Amen

B. Class Discussion

Last week we also talked about death, and how death can happen at any time along the continuum of life, from accidents, or illness, or very old age. This week we are going to talk about another kind of death. We find an example of that kind of death in the Bible. (*Read the story of Cain and Abel from Genesis 4:3-5, 8-12 and refer to the Continuum of Life to show how old Abel might have been- a young adult. Then ask: What happened to Abel? Allow the students to tell you and then ask them what we call it when someone kills another person-if they haven't used the word murder in their answer.*) What did God say when He found out that Cain had murdered Abel? Was God angry? How could you tell? Did God punish Cain? What does this tell us about how God feels about murder?

Does God talk about murder anywhere else in the Bible? (*Lead them to the Ten Commandments if no one volunteers, and read Exodus 20:13*) From God's own word we can see that murder is a very serious sin against God. Why do you suppose God thinks murder is so serious? (*Allow the students to suggest reasons, and then summarize.*) Murder is such a serious sin because one person cuts short the life and work that God had planned for another person to do. It can happen anywhere on the Continuum of Life. (*Indicate several places, including before birth.*)

In the Bible we read that God knows us before we are born. Here's what God said to Jeremiah when He called him to be a prophet: (Jeremiah1:5) *"Before I formed you in your mother's womb, I knew you. Before you were born, I set you apart for a special work"*. We can see that God is very clear here that He knows us before we are even born, and He has a plan for our lives just as He had a plan for Jeremiah's. When someone is murdered, the whole world suffers because that person will never be able to make the special contributions that God put them on earth to make. Because they were murdered, they will never get to do all the work God wanted them to do in this life.

C. Class Activity

Murder is a terrible thing and it makes us sad. *(Use current events like September 11, 2001, to show students that, even when we are not well acquainted with a person who is murdered, it still makes us sad.)* **Murder is a sin.** *(Ask them how they would have felt if the person from last week's obituary had been murdered, before they could have accomplished all the things they had been able to do with their lives. Allow students to share their feelings and thoughts about this.)* The Bible tells us that death came into the world because of sin and that sin always leads to death. When death entered the world, the whole world suffered and was sad, but God had an answer for the sadness that came into the world with death. Does anyone know what God's answer to sin and death is? *(Allow students to recognize and share that Jesus is God's answer.)* God sent His only son, Jesus, to the world and what happened to Him? *(Lead them to share how Jesus died and show them that this death was a murder. Jesus was an innocent man, who never committed even one sin, but He was killed because of the sins of men.)* What happened to Jesus after He died? *(Let the students recount what happened, the burial, and the Resurrection.)* That means that God is greater than murder or any kind of sin and God is more powerful than death, because He rose from the dead. The Bible tells us that we, too, can live forever with Jesus, even if we die. We can have eternal life with Jesus in Heaven, where there is no sin, or sickness or death. Now we know that, because of Jesus, Heaven and Eternal Life are also part of our lives.

D. Closing

1. Summary

- Today we have learned that each one of us has already started to make important contributions to the world.
- We know that we are really special to God and that He has a plan for each one of us--different from the plan He has for anyone else.
- We learned that murder is a very serious sin because God made each person and no one should take another person's life. It prevents a precious person from doing the important work that God made him or her to do. It robs the whole world of that person's special contributions. It makes us sad to think about this.
- We also learned today that Jesus triumphed over sin, even murder, and He triumphed over death, so we don't have to be afraid of sin and death.
- Jesus tells us that we can triumph over sin and death too, if we love Him, obey His commandments and do His will. That's what we mean by The Good News!

2. Take Home Assignment

You may be wondering how you will find out what is the special work God has for you to do. It often takes time for people to learn what their most important work will be, but it is important to remember that everyday you are doing important work if you are obeying God. One thing is certain: God tells us in the Bible that He definitely has plans for us. In Jeremiah 29, God says, *“I know well the plans I have in mind for you, plans for good and not for evil Plans to give you a future full of Hope. When you call me, when you go to pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me.”* This tells us that God wants us to pray to Him, to ask Him for His will, and obey His word. If you try to do those things everyday, (pray and be obedient, day by day), then you will be doing the special work God made you to do. Here’s a little bookmark with those words from Jeremiah to remind you about God’s plans. Take it home and put it where you can see it everyday and have it to remind you to pray and obey!

If you pray for that everyday, and do your best to obey Jesus, then little by little, you will find yourself doing exactly what God wants you to do with your life, even if it’s hard sometimes. And when we fail, we can tell Jesus how sorry we are, and He promises to forgive us, and help us try again to do better. So your homework will be to take this little bookmark prayer and put it somewhere that will remind you how much you want to do the work God created you to do.

3. Prayer

Let’s close by using our bookmark prayer. *(Read prayer together.)*

Remember to pass out the Take Home Packets.