



# Killing

## OBJECTIVE

To help groups understand the killing commandment in its broadest meaning: whenever we rob our neighbors of the richness of life, we are murdering a precious part of them.

## FOCUS THIS WEEK

We are commanded not to murder or kill. So what? What does this mean in a world where children and parents kill each other with looks, language and actions? What does it mean in a world where corporations pollute oceans, rivers and forests to make a buck? What does it mean in a world where a baby can be shaken to death, the elderly can be abandoned and mistreated, and “collateral damage” from both terrorists and those fighting the war on terror is deemed acceptable? Don’t let anyone leave this session without being confronted by this truth: We are commanded not to harm others in any way, but instead, we are to help them in all their physical needs. So now what?

## FAITH5 SMALL GROUP TIME



**SHARE** highs and lows to set the stage for a more open and meaningful discussion. Pair group members up one-on-one to share the best and worst things that happened this week. After a short while, return to small group and invite each person to share their partner’s highs and lows. Encourage youth to write their personal highs and lows, those of their partner, and a short prayer on their FAITH5 Small Group Time Handout.



**READ** and highlight the theme verse, Exodus 20:13, in your Bibles and circle key words. A musical version of this Scripture verse can be found at [www.faithink.com](http://www.faithink.com), FINKlink TC05.



**TALK** about how the Bible reading might relate to today’s highs and lows. Supplement your discussion with some of the following.

### A. IMAGES IN WORDS AND ART

Take a look at the theme art and cartoons. What do you see in the art? Ask youth where they are in the art. How might the art and the theme verse apply to your group highs and lows today?

### B. ROLE PLAY

1. A new kid in school is being pushed around by the school bully. What do you say and do?

2. Your best friend comes to you in tears. She is afraid of her father's angry outbursts. She confides in you that he has just bought a gun and is threatening her mother. What do you do? What do you say?

### C. QUESTIONS TO PONDER

**1. What would it take for you to have the power to hold back rather than strike back next time someone wrongs you?** Affirm all thoughtful answers.

**2. Justice and mercy are two sides to the same coin. Which is more important to you? Why? Think about this in relationship to capital punishment, mercy killing, and the war against terrorism.** Affirm all thoughtful answers. There are no easy answers here.

**3. How can words, looks, and inaction kill?** Hurting people in any way kills a part of them. We are to defend them, speak well of them and explain their actions in the kindest ways.

**D. QUOTATIONS** Ask youth to choose a quotation and share their thoughts and questions about it.

**E. TERMS OF THE WEEK** Review these key terms and write definitions.

**Capital Punishment:** Killing a person convicted of a crime.

**Kill:** Hurting our neighbors in any way (either by something we do or don't do).

**Murder:** To unlawfully end a human life.

**Neighbor:** Everyone in the world. Jesus answered the question, "Who is my neighbor?" by saying that even our enemies are our neighbors.

**War:** When nations fight and kill one another.

### F. GROUP BUSINESS

**1. Servant Event Idea:** Call the police or a local social service agency and ask if you can volunteer to help a family or individual who has been victimized by crime. You may also choose to do this for a military family with members currently deployed overseas. Volunteer to rake their lawn, shovel their snow or cook their dinner.

**2. FAITH5 Home Huddle:** Encourage youth to take a few minutes for FAITH5 with their families each night at home, using the FAITH5 Journals or the Home Huddle Handout.

**G. WRAP UP** Summarize the event with your group, assigning someone to share what you learned at closing.

- One new thing we learned today
- One thing we already knew that is worth repeating
- One thing we would like to know more about
- The highest highs and lowest lows which our group will bring to the closing prayer



**PRAY** for one another. Praise and thank God for your highs. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you in your lows. Include your friend's highs and lows in your prayers. Toss a newspaper into the center of the group or invite youth to think of something going on in the world that calls for prayer. **Tip:** Gather in a circle. Hold hands, lock arms or go shoulder-to-shoulder to bond your group!



**BLESS** one another by name. Trace a cross on each hand or forehead. Look them in the eyes and give them a smile. As for their blessing as well!

