

## Community Group Questions

1. In Matthew 5:21 Jesus refers to the commandment found in Exodus 20:13 that states, '*you shall not murder*'. Does this commandment rule out all killing (Gen. 9:6; Ex. 21:12-14; 32:27; Rom. 13:4; Dt. 7:1-4; Ex. 22:2-3)? If not, what does it specifically refer to?
2. Concerning the commandments, the Westminster Larger Catechism states, "*Where a sin is forbidden, the contrary duty is commanded.*" What sin is forbidden in Ex. 20:13 and what is the contrary duty that is commanded?
3. If '*the contrary duty*' of Ex. 20:13 is to protect, preserve and promote life, then what ethical issues exist in our culture that we need to stand up against?
4. How did the scribes and Pharisees understand the commandment of Ex. 20:13? In what way did they '*relax*' this command (Mt. 5:19)?
5. What does Jesus do with the commandment of Ex. 20:13 in Mt. 5:22? How does Jesus' definition of righteousness differ from that of the scribes and Pharisees (Mt. 5:20)? What makes Jesus' type of righteousness so much more demanding?
6. What is the root problem of all sins according to Jesus (Mk. 7:21-23)?
7. According to James 3:9-12 why do we treat others poorly? What are some mediums we use today to treat others poorly?
8. What do the following passages have to say about the use of our words and the control of anger (Prov. 15:1,18; 29:11; Jam. 1:19-21)?
9. In Matthew 5:22-26 Jesus gives two examples that underscore the need to quickly resolve matters. Why is reconciliation so important (Ps. 66:18; Phil. 4:2-3)? How does Proverbs 19:11 relate to interpersonal relationships? Is there someone you need to pursue reconciliation with?