

# 4

## Honor Life

## HOW DO YOU SHOW OTHERS THEY ARE VALUED?

### The POINT >

Respect human life as God does.

#### > EXODUS 20:13

<sup>13</sup>“You shall not murder.

#### > 1 SAMUEL 26:7-11,22-25

<sup>7</sup>So David and Abishai went to the army by night. And there lay Saul sleeping within the encampment, with his spear stuck in the ground at his head, and Abner and the army lay around him. <sup>8</sup>Then Abishai said to David, “God has given your enemy into your hand this day. Now please let me pin him to the earth with one stroke of the spear, and I will not strike him twice.”

<sup>9</sup>But David said to Abishai, “Do not destroy him, for who can put out his hand against the LORD’s anointed and be guiltless?” <sup>10</sup>And David said, “As the LORD lives, the LORD will strike him, or his day will come to die, or he will go down into battle and perish. <sup>11</sup>The LORD

forbid that I should put out my hand against the LORD’s anointed. But take now the spear that is at his head and the jar of water, and let us go.”

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<sup>22</sup>And David answered and said, “Here is the spear, O king! Let one of the young men come over and take it.

<sup>23</sup>The LORD rewards every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness, for the LORD gave you into my hand today, and I would not put out my hand against the LORD’s anointed. <sup>24</sup>Behold, as your life was precious this day in my sight, so may my life be precious in the sight of the LORD, and may he deliver me out of all tribulation.” <sup>25</sup>Then Saul said to David, “Blessed be you, my son David! You will do many things and will succeed in them.” So David went his way, and Saul returned to his place.



# THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

## FACT:

Is there life on Mars? Probably not. But every year on August 5, the Mars Curiosity Rover celebrates its arrival by singing happy birthday. To itself. On Mars. All alone.<sup>1</sup>



## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // PEOPLE

All people are created in God's image as male and female, are infinitely valuable, and our lives are a gift from God.

In our culture and throughout the world, people have many different perspectives about right and wrong, and the principles taught in the Ten Commandments are the cause of a lot of disagreements. The first commandment teaches that there is one God, but many people argue that there are many ways to heaven. The third commandment teaches that we are to honor God's name, but people continually throw His name around carelessly. The principle taught in the fourth commandment, remember the sabbath, is very rarely taken seriously. And the call to honor parents and other authorities is brought into question all the time.

But there is one commandment that is pretty much universally accepted—murder is wrong. However, life and the value of life have never been more discussed and debated than in recent years, and whether the topic is abortion, euthanasia, or human-trafficking, we must understand what the Bible has to say about life and work to defend God's standards.

We will see in this session that the Bible is clear—life begins at the moment of conception and retains its value from beginning to end. This applies to all human life, and God wants us to learn to value all people in the ways He does.

## EXODUS 20:13

**1** What are some ways our society devalues human life?

**2** Why does Jesus say that anger or hatred deserves the same punishment as murder?

## 1 SAMUEL 26:7-11

**3** When have you been in a situation where others were telling you to do something, but you knew that it was not the right thing to do?

**4** What can we learn from David's words and actions in this passage?

**5** How would you explain the truth that God is the ultimate authority over all life?



*We have been called to speak up for the lives of others—including the helpless and most vulnerable. #GodsHeartBSFL*

## 1 SAMUEL 26:22-25

**6** Where do you see our culture failing to view people as valuable?

**7** Who do you need to show mercy, even though it might not be deserved?

**8** How can believers speak up for those whose lives have been devalued by the world?



# LIVE IT OUT



## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // PEOPLE

*All people are created in God's image as male and female, are infinitely valuable, and our lives are a gift from God.*

The world today certainly doesn't value life the way God does. We see evidence of this in real ways: abortion, bullying, trafficking, violent crimes, and more. But this applies in other ways too. Jesus said that to be angry with others in a selfish way is to be guilty of murder, at least in spirit. We must make it a point to treat others in love and kindness, and never to relate to others out of anger. All people are made in God's image and are worthy of our respect.

## > CHRIST

The command not to kill also includes the call to honor all human life as God does. God values life so much that He sent Jesus to give His life that ours may be spared.

**9** How can you reflect Jesus in the ways you value the lives of others?

**10** Journal a brief prayer thanking God for allowing you to have eternal life.

GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

**PEOPLE**

FAMILY

COMMUNITY  
& WORLD

## > COMMUNITY

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As God's children, we are to value others in the church, building them up in the ways we relate to one another.

**11** Are there ways you devalue others with your attitudes and words as opposed to building them up? How?



**12** This week, let three friends know how much you value them. (Consider devoting your efforts to someone who may feel like others look down on them).

## > CULTURE

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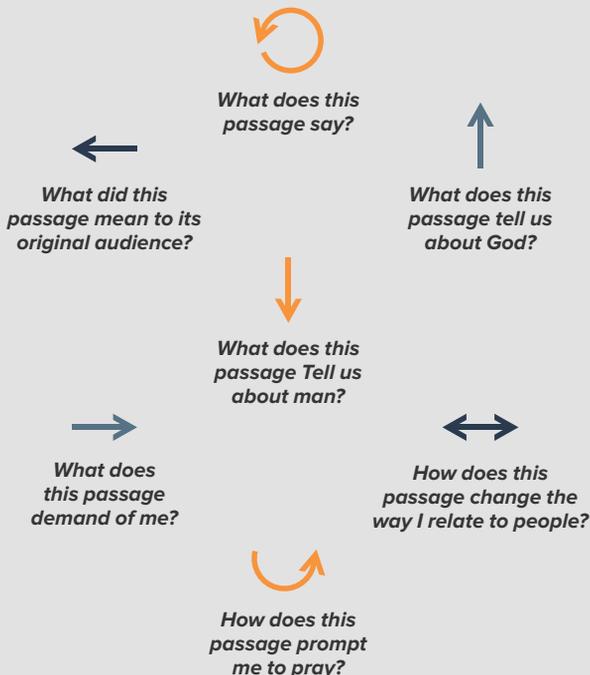
**13** Our culture often devalues life. How do you see this happening?

**14** How can you demonstrate that you value life as God does as a testimony to your lost friends?

# DAILY DEVOTIONS



## The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



## Day One MATTHEW 5:21

God's people, Israel, valued the law very highly. They knew God had communicated to them through the law, and they saw it as their way to live in relation to God. Jewish teachers taught the people how to follow the law—at least in the ways that the teachers understood it. What the teachers taught was that what the Lord forbid was actual murder, the taking of a human life. At times, people today are tempted to be caught up in the technicalities of what others say, but miss out on what they really mean. For instance, if your mom says, "Make sure you come home after school," and you show up around 8pm to find her sitting at the kitchen table worried to death, maybe you missed the point. Technically you did come home after school—five hours after school—but what she meant was directly after. The Jewish teachers interpreted the law from a technical and literal perspective, but they missed the spirit of what God intended.

- **When have you missed the spirit of what someone intended to communicate?**
- **How can you make sure to listen for the meaning behind what God says?**



## Day Four

# MATTHEW 5:23-24a

Hopefully, you have made a habit of worshipping God—not just on Sundays or at a midweek worship gathering, but even privately throughout the week. Jesus speaks to those who consider themselves worshipers. There are many who come to God in order to worship Him, but who have unresolved issues of sin in their lives. In this passage, Jesus teaches that dealing with our sin in a practical way is essential before offering our worship to God. If we have said or done something to hurt someone else, we should prioritize, even above worshipping God, going to them, taking responsibility for our sin, and asking for forgiveness. If we refuse to take these steps, we should expect that God should refuse our worship. True worship involves not only humbling ourselves before God, but also humbling ourselves before those we've sinned against.

- **Why is humility a necessary part of worship?**
  
- **What practical steps do you need to take in pursuing the forgiveness of someone you've wronged?**

## Day Five

# MATTHEW 5:24b



Reconciliation is a concept that is extremely important to the Christian life. For reconciliation to happen, it means that a relationship is characterized by conflict. When we hurt others through anger or careless (or even nasty) words, whether we realize it or not, we create division and mistrust between ourselves and that person. However, we are called to live at peace with everyone and to cultivate unity particularly with others in the church. And these serve as a reflection of our relationship with God. To be in conflict with others is to be in conflict with God, at least in as much as it is our own responsibility. If we want to be reconciled with God, then we must make it a point to pursue reconciliation with those we've wronged.

- **Why is reconciliation a concept so important in the Christian life?**
  
- **How does reconciliation with others connect with our being reconciled to God?**