

## Lesson 6

# Life: The Gift of God

### Objective:

To understand the importance of respecting and preserving human life as instructed by the Fifth Commandment, and to explore practical ways to promote life and avoid actions that threaten it.

### Introduction (Starter) :

Show the students pictures of a smiling baby, a granny who leans on a walking stick, a mother who feeds her baby, playing children, fighting children, a man who is trying to kill someone, a man who smokes, two persons who are drinking liquor, intoxicating etc.

Let the children express their reactions about what the pictures depict.

Ask the children to segregate the pictures into two sets

- 1) Those that support life and
- 2) Those that hamper life.

Then, begin with a brief discussion on the story of Cain and Abel, highlighting Cain's jealousy and anger leading to the first murder.

<https://youtu.be/Edx3DRRWNMU>

After watching the video, ask students to reflect on why God values human life and the consequences of violating this commandment.

### Presentation of the topic:

1. *Scriptural Foundation:* Begin by recounting the story of Cain and Abel, highlighting the significance of their offerings to God and Cain's jealousy-driven murder of his brother. Analyse God's response to Cain's sin, emphasizing the severity of the punishment and the moral lessons conveyed.
2. *The Sanctity of Human Life:* Explore the theological concept of human beings created in the image and likeness of God, underscoring the intrinsic dignity and worth of every individual. Discuss humanity's role as stewards of life, entrusted by God to protect and cherish the gift of life.
3. *The Fifth Commandment in the New Testament:* Examine Jesus' teachings on the Fifth Commandment in the Sermon on the Mount, emphasizing the broader scope beyond physical murder to include attitudes and intentions. Reflect on Jesus' exhortation to refrain from anger, insult, and contempt toward others, highlighting the interconnectedness of thought and action.

4. *Sins against Human Life*: Identify and discuss various forms of violence and injustice that violate the Fifth Commandment, including murder, suicide, abortion, terrorism, and substance abuse. Analyse the ethical implications of mercy killing and abortion, exploring the Christian perspective on the sanctity of life from conception to natural death.
5. *Actions to Promote Human Life*: Encourage students to reflect on practical ways to uphold the sanctity of life and promote human flourishing in their communities. Discuss the importance of protecting health, maintaining peace, and preserving nature as integral components of respecting life.

### **Practical Application or Habit Formation :**

1. Maintain the sanctity of your body as it is the Temple of the Holy Spirit.
2. Take care of yourself by developing regular exercise and proper nutritious food.
3. Avoid gossip and jealousy.
4. Cultivate the habit of encouraging and appreciating others.

### **Activity ( Any 2)**

- Facilitate small group discussions or reflective journaling sessions where students can contemplate contemporary issues related to the sanctity of life and develop action plans to address them.
- Invite guest speakers or organize field trips to engage with organizations or initiatives dedicated to promoting life, peace, and environmental stewardship.
- *Kindness Projects*: Encourage students to initiate kindness projects in their school or community, such as organizing a "compliment day" where they write uplifting notes to classmates
- *Nature Conservation Activities*: Organize nature conservation activities where students can participate in church premises clean-ups, tree planting events, or bird feeder making workshops
- *Conflict Resolution Role-Playing*: Facilitate role-playing scenarios where students practice resolving conflicts peacefully and respectfully, emphasizing Jesus' teachings on refraining from anger and contempt towards others. Encourage discussions on the importance of empathy, forgiveness, and understanding in promoting harmony and respect for human life.

### **Bible Verse: Read and learn**

Psalm 139:13-14

### **Conclusion:**

The Fifth Commandment, "You shall not kill," extends beyond physical acts of murder to encompass attitudes and actions that diminish the dignity of others.