

5<sup>th</sup> COMMANDMENT:

YOU SHALL NOT KILL

1. What do you think of capital punishment?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How do you think the Fifth Commandment applies to capital punishment?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. In *The Lutheran Handbook* (p. 198) read Luther's explanation of the Fifth Commandment in the *Small Catechism*. **Exodus 20:13** says "You shall not kill." This has been translated in your catechism as "You shall not murder." According to Luther's explanation, killing involves more than murder. What else does Luther say we are not to do to our neighbor?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. "Harm" can be more than physical, and "life" can be more than simply breathing. Give an example of how a person can be harmed...  
  
... Physically -  
  
  
  
... Emotionally -  
  
  
  
... Spiritually -
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What does Luther say we are supposed to do that is positive for our neighbor?

6. Give three specific examples of this positive action toward our neighbors.
  
7. Read **Luke 10: 30-37** and **Matthew 25:35-50**. Who is our neighbor?
  
8. A kid at school is getting picked on by one of your friends. To obey the Fifth Commandment, what should you do?
  
9. "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words can never hurt me." This common childhood saying is not really true. Why not?
  
10. Can you think of specific ways this commandment could apply to protecting non-human life?
  
11. Words and actions are not the only thing that can hurt others. *Gestures*, a certain look, a whispered comment, a roll of the eyes, a look away. . . . There are many ways—verbal, non-verbal and physical—in which we can hurt people. Write a pact with your small group, that this week you will not engage in any kind of verbal or non-verbal murder. Remember to process this next week and discuss your temptations and successes. Write your small group pact here:

