

Lesson Seven

Love and Protect Human Life



Growing as a Teacher

Scripture

Exodus 20:13
Genesis 4:2b-16

Bible Truth

The sixth commandment teaches us to value and protect human life.

Bible Story

Cain murders Abel, and God punishes him for his sin.

Lesson Aim

To thank God for the precious gift of life and to show concern for our lives and for the lives of others.

Memory Work

Review:

All memory work from
Lessons 2-6

“You shall not murder.”

EXODUS 20:13, NKJV

First Catechism

- 98 Q. What does the sixth commandment teach you?
- A. Not to take anyone's life unjustly and not to sin when I am angry.

The sixth commandment teaches us that murder is wrong. Life is a precious gift from God (Acts 17:25). He made us—the tiny, growing unborn baby, the lively Younger Elementary child, the busy mom, the aging grandparent—and we all live and breathe because God created each one as a vessel designed to serve him and one another. The beginning and end of life belong to God alone.

But the sixth commandment goes further. God not only forbids murder, he speaks out against sinful anger, envy, revenge and hatred—the sinful root of murder (1 John 2:9-11). A mean thought, frosty attitude or cruel remark can wound deeply, even destroying the life of a relationship. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus points out that any violation of the sixth commandment must be taken seriously. Not only must we consider everything that can lead up to the final treachery of murder, we must deal with resentment and conflict by making peace and making things right (Matthew 5:21-26).

As you teach your students the meaning of God's sixth family rule, emphasize that God tells us to love others the way we love ourselves. He tells us to be patient, kind, gentle and forgiving. If our hearts are filled with the love of Jesus, the seeds of murder will not have room to grow (Matthew 18:21-22).

Ask the Lord to help you teach these truths in the power of the One who gave himself for us—who returned good for evil—when he died upon the cross for our sins.

Bible Background

When Cain saw that God rejected his offering and accepted Abel's, Cain became bitterly angry. Because of his sinful heart attitude, Cain was unresponsive to God's remedy (Genesis 4:6-7). Cain was unwilling to see that it was not *what* Abel offered but *his faith toward God* that made Abel's gift acceptable (Hebrews 11:4). Cain's wrath against Abel grew to the point of terrible violence. God confronted Cain with his monstrous act of murder and punished his sin. And Cain walked away—not sorry for his sin but full of self-pity—with blood on his hands and alienated from God.

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Lesson Seven at a Glance

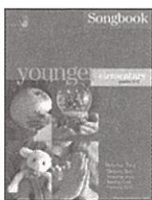
Step	Minutes	Children's Activities	Supplies (complete list, p. 11)
1 Welcome	5–10	Be interviewed about what it's like to be a brother or sister.	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Optional:</i> toy microphone
2 Bible Time	15–20	Listen to the story of Cain and Abel.	<input type="checkbox"/> TA 7a Cain & Abel*
3 Memory Work	5–10	Memorize Exodus 20:13 and <i>First Catechism Q/A 98</i> . Play a game to review commandments and corresponding catechism questions.	<input type="checkbox"/> TA 1a poster** <input type="checkbox"/> Q/A 98 sticker**
4 Activities	10–15	14 Begin to learn the “Ten Commandments Song” (Songbook, p. 29). If time, do activities that show how we can live to please God.	<input type="checkbox"/> Songbook <input type="checkbox"/> TA 7b Ten Commandments Song** <input type="checkbox"/> <i>At Home 7**</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Markers or crayons <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Optional: Younger Elementary Vol. 2 CD</i>
5 Final Focus	5	Close in prayer, asking Jesus to help us love and forgive others, and give us the power to obey God's Word.	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>At Home 7**</i> <input type="checkbox"/> SA 7 Ten Commandments Song**

Total time: 40–60 minutes

* *Younger Elementary Teaching Aids Pack*
** *Younger Elementary Student Activities Pack*

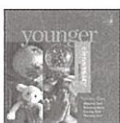


Practical Preparation



Younger Elementary Vol. 2 Songbook
All the songs for this quarter and the entire year are in the Songbook (included in the Fall Teacher's Kit).

14 “Ten Commandments Song”
Younger Elementary Vol. 2 CD



Order CD and/or extra Songbooks from Great Commission Publications at 800-695-3387 or www.gcp.org.

Set aside the supplies you need. Prepare to “interview” your children in the **Welcome** step by using the suggestions and questions provided. Borrow a microphone (a toy one will do) to help make the interview come alive.

Separate **TA 7a Cain & Abel** along the dotted lines before class.

Study the Bible story and new memory work. You will use the *I'm thinking of . . .* review tool in the **Memory Work** step to go over the first five commandments and corresponding *First Catechism* questions.

During the **Activities** step, students will be learning the “Ten Commandments Song” using the poster **TA 7b**, found in the **Student Activities Pack**. You may color it ahead of time or have early arrivals do so. Students will receive their own copies of the poster at the end of class. Read through the *At Home 7* activities and be prepared to guide students in doing the parts that time will allow.



Welcome

5–10 minutes

Welcome everyone and gather them in a circle on the floor. Tell students that you are going to interview them. *Say Today, the Bible story is about two brothers. I want to find out what it is like for those of you who have a brother or a sister. I am going to ask you a few questions—I am going to interview you to find out.* If you have a microphone, have students speak into it as they answer questions.

To guide your interview, ask the following questions:

- What is the best thing about having a brother/sister?
- What do you really like doing with your brother/sister?
- What do you and your brother/sister argue about?
- When you are angry with your brother/sister, what do you do or say?
- When you forgive your brother/sister, what happens next?
- When have you said “I am sorry” to your brother/sister?

Follow the children’s answers with illustrations from your own childhood sibling relationships—if you had any. *Conclude this segment by saying that The Bible story for today is about a man who did not love and forgive his brother in the way that he should have. Listen as I tell you about these brothers.*



Bible Time

15–20 minutes

Display TA 7a Cain & Abel. Refer to the appropriate pictures as you tell the story. Open your Bible to Genesis 4 and show the children where this week’s Bible story is found.

After Adam and Eve left the Garden of Eden, they had two sons. They named the first one Cain. They second child they called Abel.

When the sons grew up, Cain became a farmer and Abel became a shepherd. *Point to picture 1.* Cain worked in the fields growing nice crops, vegetables and fruit trees. Abel took care of his flock of sheep.

The time came for Cain and Abel to make an offering to the Lord. Cain gathered some of the produce from his farm and gave it to God. Abel brought newborn lambs, the very best of his flock, and offered them to God. *Show picture 2.*

Early Arrivals

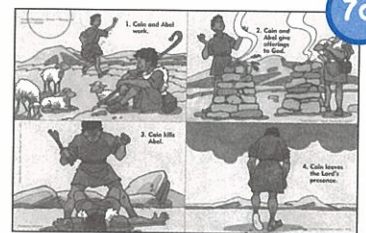


Have students who arrive early color TA 7b Ten Commandments Song poster, which will be used during the Activities segment of the lesson.



No Microphone?

If you don’t have a microphone for the *Welcome* activity, improvise. Use your imagination and ask your students to use theirs. Stick a styrofoam ball on the end of a pencil. Use a large spoon or ruler. What else might you use?





Did You Know?

The sixth commandment, “You shall not *murder*,” uses the Hebrew word *rasab*, which refers to personal and deliberate killing. This word does not refer to war or capital punishment.



Teaching Tip

Invite parents to help in the classroom. They can read a story, a poem or verses from the Bible. They can assist with activities, games and crowd control. Children will delight in the extra personal attention and in having mom or dad present. Also, parents will be blessed as they give of themselves to the children.

The Bible tells us that “By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did” (Hebrews 11:4a). Cain did not have faith, so he did not bring a sacrifice that pleased God. Because Cain lacked faith, God did not accept him or his offering.

Cain was very angry that the Lord did not care for his offering. The Lord spoke to Cain and told him that if he would do the right thing, God would accept him.

But Cain did not listen to God. Instead, Cain went to his brother and said, “Let’s go out into the fields.” Abel walked away with his brother. Very likely the brothers were far away from where their parents might be watching. Cain planned to do something terrible to his brother. Cain was so jealous, angry and upset with Abel, he attacked him right out there in the field and killed him. *Show picture 3.*

God called out to Cain, “Where is your brother, Abel?”

“I don’t know,” Cain said sharply. “Am I supposed to keep track of him?”

The Lord said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground” (Genesis 4:10). Then the Lord told Cain that because of what he had done, the ground would not give him good crops, no matter how hard he worked. And from then on, Cain would be without a real home—he would wander from place to place.

Cain was very upset and felt very sorry for himself. “This punishment is more than I can bear,” he told God. “While I am wandering everywhere, someone will surely find me and kill me.”

But God promised to spare his life. God put a warning sign on Cain. It was a mark to tell others to keep away from Cain and not kill him. Then Cain left the presence of God and headed for the land of Nod. *Show picture 4.*



Before completing this step, help the children understand how today’s Bible truths apply to them. *Ask How did Cain break the sixth commandment? (He murdered his brother.) Say If I asked if any of you had ever broken this commandment, I am sure that you would say no. But listen carefully. . . . Turn to Matthew 5:21–22. Read the passage to the class and say Jesus said that if we have sinful anger and hatred in our hearts, we have broken the sixth commandment. Ask Now tell me who has broken this commandment? (We all have.)* You may want to spend a minute or two discussing examples of this.

Explain to the class that because of our sin we *cannot* obey God’s commandments. But when we trust the Lord Jesus as our Savior, he forgives our sin, and he gives us the power we need to obey God’s Word.

3

Memory Work

5–10 minutes

Gather around the memory work poster (TA 1a). Ask a volunteer to read **Exodus 20:13** aloud; then have the group join in and repeat the words. *Say* **The sixth commandment doesn't mean only that we should not take a person's life or have sinful anger and hatred in our hearts. It means we should show love and concern for others—even for those who treat us badly. Instead of becoming bitter and resentful toward them, we are to show them God's love. That's hard! We can do it only because Jesus gives us the help we need.**

Have a student paste the *First Catechism Q/A 98* sticker on the poster. Go over the question and answer with the children and explain that *unjustly* means "in a way that is wrong and unfair."

Spend a few minutes reviewing the first five commandments. Tell students that they are going to play a thinking and remembering game to go over what they have already learned. Explain that you will give them a clue and they are to guess which commandment you have in mind. After you give the clue, students will say the appropriate commandment and relevant *First Catechism* question and answer.

- I am thinking of the commandment that tells me to honor two people. (*the fifth—Exodus 20:12a; Q/A 96*)
- I am thinking of the commandment that tells me about a name. (*the third—Exodus 20:7a; Q/A 89*)
- I am thinking of the commandment that tells me about work and rest. (*the fourth—Exodus 20:8; Q/A 91*)
- I am thinking of the commandment that tells me about false gods. (*the first—Exodus 20:3; Q/A 85*)
- I am thinking of the commandment that tells me how to worship. (*the second—Exodus 20:4a; Q/A 87*)

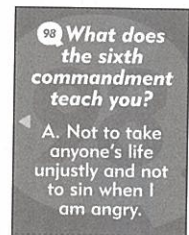
Conclude this segment by reviewing the sixth commandment and *First Catechism Q/A 98*.

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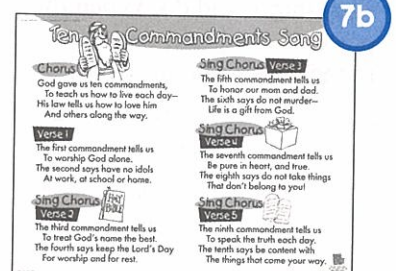
Activities

10–15 minutes

Post the TA 7b Ten Commandments Song poster where the students can see it easily. Teach the children the chorus and the first three verses of the song. Sing it to the tune *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*. Start with the chorus, sing the chorus between each verse and end with the



14 "Ten Commandments Song" Songbook, p. 29





chorus. Point to the words on the poster as you sing the song. You will sing this song during the next several lessons. Each child will take home a “Ten Commandments Song” poster at the end of the lesson.

If time allows, give each child a copy of *At Home 7*, a pencil and crayons or markers. Read aloud the title and directions for the part(s) you choose to do.

In *Living to Please God*, read aloud the speech bubbles. Help children decide which shape to color.

In *Brandon’s Tent*, read the caption for each picture and decide whether that choice shows the love of Jesus.



Final Focus

5 minutes



Items to Send Home

- SA 7 Ten Commandments Song poster
- *At Home 7*



Enrichment

Make an *I Like You!* poster for brothers, sisters and best friends. Have the children tell you ways that they can show love and kindness to their brothers, sisters and best friends. List ideas on the poster. Some students may want to write their own sentences, while others may want to dictate their thoughts to you or draw pictures showing what they could do. When the poster is complete, display it in the classroom.

If you did not do so in the *Activities* step, hand out copies of *At Home 7*. Take a minute or two to go over the paper with the children, encouraging them to do the activities at home. Tell them that doing the activities will help them understand what it means to obey the sixth commandment.

Hand out *SA 7 Ten Commandments Song* posters to the children. Tell them to color the posters at home, possibly teaching the song to their families. Remind them to review the memory work during the week at home.

Close with a simple prayer, thanking God for the precious gift of life and for sending his Son, Jesus, to die for our sins. Ask him to give us the help we need to show love to others, especially when it is hard to do so.

