

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, I have not loved my neighbor as myself. Jesus, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world. Take my sin away, too. Amen.

Memory

1. "Do not murder" (Exodus 20:13).
2. "Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer" (1John 3:15).

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Emmaus Bible Lessons
Series 2: Commandments Four to Ten
Study #03 of 13: Joseph's Brothers Attack (Genesis 37)

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Emmaus Bible Lessons

Series 2: Commandments Four to Ten

Study #03 of 13

Fifth Commandment *Joseph's Brothers Attack*



God says to you in the fifth commandment,
"Do not murder"
(Exodus 20:13).

THIS MEANS you must not hate, stay angry,
or harm your neighbor in any way.

Bible Reading: Genesis 37:2-8, 14-28

Questions and Answers

For Understanding This Bible Story

1. How did Joseph's brothers react to his dreams? Why did they feel this way?

Joseph's brothers "hated him [Joseph] and couldn't talk friendly to him" because their father loved Joseph the most. Joseph's dreams only made his brothers hate him more. When Joseph told his brothers about his dream, the brothers hated the thought of bowing to Joseph.

2. What did Joseph's brothers plan to do? What prevented them?

Joseph's brothers planned to kill him and hide his body. They also thought they could tell a lie to their father and say that a wild animal had killed Joseph. While they were making these plans, Joseph's eldest brother Reuben stopped them. Reuben changed his brothers' minds about killing Joseph. Reuben saved Joseph's life.

3. Did Joseph's brothers break the fifth commandment, even though they did not murder him?

Yes. Even though the brothers did not actually complete the act of murder by taking Joseph's life, these men were still guilty of breaking God's commandment, "Do not murder" (Exodus 20:13). Joseph's brothers were guilty of the fifth commandment because they spoke evil of him, treated him badly, and did not help him to keep his body safe.

4. God says to you in His Bible, "Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer" (1 John 3:15).

a. According to these words, when did the brothers first become guilty of the fifth commandment?

These Words show that Joseph's brothers first became guilty of the fifth commandment when they hated Joseph. God also says in His Bible, "When desire conceives, it gives birth to sin, and when sin grows up, it gives birth to death" (James 1:15). Sinful actions certainly follow after sinful thoughts. However, Joseph's brothers already broke the commandment in their thoughts and desires.

b. In what way have you also broken the fifth commandment?

God wants you to know that you break the fifth commandment each time you think angry or hateful thoughts about someone else. You break the commandment each time you harm someone else—even if it is a small thing like pinching that person on the arm, calling that person a bad name or writing unkind things about him or her.

5. Joseph later said to his brothers, "You meant to do me harm, but God meant to do good. He wanted...to keep alive many people" (Genesis 50:20). What good did God accomplish through it?

Even though Joseph's brothers intended evil for Joseph, God used it for good. After many years, Joseph became an important and powerful leader in Egypt. While Joseph was a leader in Egypt, God used Joseph as a way of saving Joseph's entire family during a famine. Everyone in Joseph's family was saved!

In a similar way, our Lord Jesus Christ was betrayed and murdered (Acts 7:52). But God also used this for good! After Jesus was crucified and in the tomb three days, God raised Him from the dead. By doing this, God's Son Jesus has saved you from sin. Now you will live with Jesus in safety and security forever, just as Joseph's family lived with Joseph during the famine!