

## Home Group Supplemental Material

### Do not kill – Matthew 5:21-26

Please note that these questions are provided simply as a resource to supplement the preparation by Home Groups. Please feel free to add your own questions and miss any of these out.

I suggest that before you start, you ask if there are any general questions about the passage and/or the sermon that people would like to discuss and/or get clarification on. For example, do people understand what I said and do they agree with it!

#### Suggested questions for discussion

1. Why do you think that Jesus was so concerned about wrong anger? Was he right to equate it with murder? Why, or why not?
2. The world will suffer another financial crisis, former Federal Reserve chief Alan Greenspan recently told the BBC. Blamed by some for not doing more to prevent the crisis, Mr Greenspan denied any responsibility for the problems gripping the global economy. "It's human nature, unless somebody can find a way to change human nature, we will have more crises and none of them will look like this because no two crises have anything in common, except human nature."

Question: Is wrong anger, like a number of other apparent human failings, simply down to human nature? If not, why not? If so, is there anything we can do about it? How does Jesus' life, death and resurrection change things?

3. "Christians are called to be "the light of the world" (Matt 5:14). God's people are not called to have a leisure-time faith which might affect their private life but have no impact on the public world."

Question: Do you agree with this statement? What are the practical ways in which Christians can model being "the light of the world" in the area of 'anger-management'?

4. Read Matt 18:15-20 and Ephesians 4:25-32.

Question: Do these passages provide useful practical advice for Christians living in today's world? If so, in what ways? If not, what guidance would you replace them with? How will it change the way you live this week?

As a specific example, is the idea that we "should not let the sun go down while [we] are still angry" (Eph 4:26) an 'Old Wives' tale, or is it a good biblical principle we can still use today?

5. "There is right anger as demonstrated by Jesus. In our days of peace and harmony at any cost, of positive thinking, and of confusing Godly love with human sentimentality, we often need to show more anger against certain things. There are things in our country, our communities, our schools, and even in our churches about which we have no excuse for not being angry, vocally angry. "

Question: Do you agree with this statement? Can there be a danger of us mistaking self-righteousness for right anger? How can we try to make sure that we get the balance right between right anger and wrong anger? What Biblical principles can we use to help us in our day-to-day living?

Issued by JJB  
16/9/09