

# **The Ten**

## **We all wear the teardrop- Session #5**

### **Small Group Notes**

#### **Introduction:**

**Rate your likely level of anger on a scale of 1 to 10 according to the following scenarios:**

- \*Someone tailgated you, then zipped around you and cut you off in traffic.**
- \*Your spouse forgot your anniversary.**
- \*On a Friday, your boss gave you a demanding project with a deadline of Monday morning, and you had plans with your family for the weekend.**
- \*You told your kid three times to take out the trash. He didn't do it.**
- \*You find out your daughter stayed up all night on her cell phone and bombed a big test the next day.**
- \*You find out your kid skipped school and spent the day with friends.**

**What are some things that really push your button? How do you often respond in anger (stew or sit)?**

**What is the difference between constructive and destructive anger? Can you think of examples in your life or in the Bible of each of these?**

#### **Discuss: What every teardrop says?**

1. Tear drops are a result of failing to realize everyone is an image bearer
  - Read Exodus 20:13, Genesis 1:26-27

Explain: The Hebrew verb translated "murder" in this verse also could be used to refer to unintentional killing (see Deut. 4:42) or executing a convicted murderer (see Num. 35:30-31). The act of murder is not just an action but a belief as well that this image bearer is not worth further existence. Therefore, it is claim against the nature of God to take someone else's life intentionally.

Ask:

**Why do you think when God said this commandment that there were not any exceptions, conditions, or extra statements?**

**What are ways that our culture tries to “skirt” around this commandment?**

2. Tear drops are a result of failing to realize that we are called to protect life, not merely avoid ending it.

- We will either run towards preserving/protecting life or drift towards taking it.
- Read Proverbs 31:8; John 13:35
- Being passive is being guilty

Explain: While God authorized capital punishment of convicted murderers by the covenant community, as well as killing in the context of holy war (see Deut. 20:10-13), the Sixth Commandment prohibits killing intentionally for personal vengeance or twisted pleasure. Therefore, human life belongs to God. No one can indiscriminately decide to take another’s life. God calls His people to treasure and nurture life.

Ask:

**How would your life be different if you saw everyone as an image bearer?**

**What would it look like in your conversations/social media?**

3. Tear drops are a result of failing to realize the homicide in our hearts!

- Read Matthew 5:21-25
- We can all be character assassins. Read 1 John 3:15
- Read James 4:1; Matthew 15:9-11

Explain: Jesus took the command, which was straightforward, and elicited the spirit behind the law. He showed that obeying this law meant not having murderous hearts as well as not having murderous hands. The spirit of this law is to respond to personal offenses with forbearance and forgiveness rather than with anger and violence.

Ask:

**What are ways that we do not take our anger as seriously as Jesus did?**

**What are some characteristics of an angry or murderous heart?**

**In what ways do you struggle with Jesus' teaching? How did Jesus raise expectations for His followers?**

**Consider these questions:**

- **Do I realize my hatred is homicide?**
- **Do I realize that hatred breeds contempt?**
- **What is my anger defending?**
- **Do I realize they are image bearers?**

Application:

Ask:

**How does embracing forgiveness and restraining our anger lead to righteous living? How does this model Jesus to others?**

**What practical steps can you take on your social media to not show anger but truthful love? Read Philippians 4:8 for guidance.**

**What are some ways we are meant to help one another avoid the kind of anger Jesus compared to murder? What does that require of the group? Of each individual?**

**Are there any brothers or sisters with whom you are angry and need to seek reconciliation? What steps do you need to take?**

**Are there any areas in which you are giving the Devil a foothold in your life? What could you do to prevent this from happening?**