

The Gospel Project for Adults, Summer 2014
Extended Instructional Approaches for Session 7

Introduction: *Engage the group by stimulating curiosity.*

As your students come into the class, hand them a 3-by-5-inch card and have this statement written on the board: “All of us are murderers.” When the class begins, ask your group members to write down on the card whether they agree with the statement and their reasons for agreement or disagreement. Tell them that the class will revisit this question at the end of the lesson.

Part 1: *Check for understanding.*

Ask your students this question: “Is all killing murder? Why or why not?” Expect lively interaction. Be prepared to play “devil’s advocate.” Your group members will probably mention such things as self-defense, war, and capital punishment as exceptions to the rule. Press them on their understanding of these exceptions. They should be able to get to the point where **motive** is a key determination in distinguishing murder from killing.

Part 2: *Help your group members connect with the major theme.*

Turn to the “Voices from the Church” section in the Leader’s Guide (p. 87). In the article, Wayne Grudem notes, “A life that is pleasing to God is one that has moral purity not only in its actions, but also in its desires of heart.”

Using this article, make two columns on the board: “actions” and “desires of the heart.” Break your class into two groups and give each a column. Ask them to spend five minutes preparing examples (positive and negative). They can use biblical, historical, current, or personal examples. Have each group share their answers.

Part 3: *Engage using “Think-Pair-Share” technique.*

Show your group members the video clip “God’s Shining Light.” This clip (one minute, 41 seconds) is available on Wingclips at <http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/into-the-wild/gods-shining-light>.

Think-Pair-Share: After your group members watch the video, ask them to interact with Ron’s statement to Christopher: “When you forgive, you love. And when you love, God’s light shines on you.”

Instruct your class in the following way: “**Think** for 30 seconds about this statement...How is love expressed in forgiveness? Now I want you to discuss this in **pairs** with a person on your left or right who is not your spouse...” (Pause for 60 seconds). Call on 3-4 pairs to **share** one idea.

Conclusion: *Challenge through a moment of conviction.*

Refer the group to the question written on the board: “All of us are murderers.” Have them pull out their 3-by-5-inch cards and ask them if they still agree with their initial answers. Open up for discussion. All group members should realize that they have committed murder, according to Jesus’ definition in Matthew 5:21-22. Say, “It is easy for Christians to think they are ‘above’ certain sins such as murder and adultery because they haven’t committed the actual act. But we need to realize that God is also concerned with our heart attitudes. Showing hatred and wrongful anger toward others is murder as well.”

Have your group members read Ephesians 4:29-32. Discuss the following aspects of the passage in your own words: God commands Christians to put away anger and malice. God also commands us to be kind and tenderhearted toward one another and to extend complete forgiveness just as Christ did for us. Ask your students, “Are you harboring anger toward anyone? If so, according to this passage, what are you going to do about it?” Encourage them to confess the situation to God and to make it right with the other person this week.

Teaching Tip of the Week

In his excellent book *101 Ways to Make Training Active*, Mel Silberman discusses the concept of role reversal questions as a way to aid in learning. He suggests that the teacher compose questions they would raise about some of the learning material if he or she were a participant. Then, at the beginning of the question

period, the teacher is to announce that their roles will be reversed. The teacher will be the student and the students will be the teacher. This is an excellent way to stimulate discussion, especially with a class that is a little hesitant to interact.