

REVERE GOD'S NAME

Small Group Study Guide | May 26, 2024

GRACE
FELLOWSHIP

Monday, May 27, is Memorial Day. Take a few moments to commemorate the United States Armed Forces personnel who have died while serving their country.

Discuss: In what ways do people misuse God's name?

Key Text: "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain." (Deuteronomy 5:11)

In Commandment #1, we learned not to allow anything to come *before* God in our lives, and in Commandment #2 we learned not to allow anything to come *between* God and us. In Commandment #3 (today's lesson), we'll learn the importance of revering God by using His name only in honoring ways.

1. Revelation – What is God teaching us about Himself in Commandment #3?

In Commandment #3, God is teaching us that:

- God reveals His character and reputation to us through His names. The Bible uses many different names to refer to God because one name alone cannot fully express His multi-faceted character, majesty, and power. Psalm 8:1 says, "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens." To know God's name is to know something about God, and to say God's name is to say something about God. For example, God's name *Yahweh* means "I AM" (Ex.3:14) and indicates that God is the only ever-living, self-existent, self-sufficient, never-changing Being. His name *Jehovah-Jireh* (Gen.22:14) means "The Lord will provide" and shows that the resources out of which God meets our needs are infinitely and inexhaustibly full and adequate. His name *Jehovah-Rohi* (Ps.23:1) means "The Lord is my shepherd" and emphasizes God's protection and care for us, His sheep. Every name God bears indicates a blessing He shares! And over 700 divine names are applied to Jesus Christ in the New Testament to help us know and revere Him as God!

Discuss: What does the name *Jesus* mean according to Matthew 1:21? *Emmanuel* according to Matthew 1:23? *Good Shepherd* according to John 10:11? *Lord* according to Philippians 2:10-11? *Alpha and Omega* according to Revelation 1:8?

- Since the name of God represents the person of God, how we treat His name is how we treat *Him*! This is why God takes His name so seriously and warns in Commandment #3 that He "will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain" (Deut.5:11). To "take the name of the Lord your God in vain" (v.11) means to speak of God in a flippant, degrading, or even blasphemous way. In God's eyes, to treat His name disrespectfully is to treat *Him* disrespectfully! God will not consider the person who speaks of Him like this as "guiltless" (v.11)—God will hold the person who insults Him accountable.

Discuss: According to Psalm 9:10, what effect will knowing God's name have on us?

2. Introspection – What is God teaching us about ourselves in Commandment #3?

In Commandment #3, God is teaching us that:

- Our words reflect what is in our hearts. How we use God’s name with our words indicates what we think about God in our hearts.

Discuss: What connection does Jesus make in Matthew 12:33-35 between our hearts and our words?

Discuss: What importance does David place on our words and our hearts in Psalm 19:14?

- According to the Bible, taking God’s name in vain includes:
 - Blaspheming by directing curses or judgments toward God (see Leviticus 24:16)
 - Making promises in God’s name you do not keep (see Leviticus 19:12)
 - Falsely claiming to speak on God’s behalf (see Jeremiah 23:25)
 - Having a bad testimony while claiming to follow God (see Ezekiel 36:20-23)
 - Serving God with wrong motives (see Ezekiel 20:39-40)
 - Giving God less than best (see Malachi 1:10-14)

Discuss: Do you think using God’s name as a slang word (such as typing “omg” in a text), with words like “gosh” (instead of “God”), in exclamations like “Good Lord!”, or by making jokes that reference God in a biblically incorrect manner are examples of taking God’s name in vain? Why or why not?

3. Transformation – How does God want us to live per Commandment #3?

God wants us to revere His name in 7 ways. Look up and discuss these verses that refer to God’s name:

- Call on His name for salvation (see Acts 4:12; Romans 10:13).
- Value and appreciate His name (see Psalm 29:2; Malachi 3:16).
- Exalt His name in front of others (see Psalm 20:7; 34:3).
- Live holy lives for His name’s sake (see Psalm 23:3; 2 Timothy 2:19).
- Pray in His name (see John 14:13-14; Matthew 6:9).
- Call on His name for help (see Psalm 124:8; Proverbs 18:10).
- Be willing to suffer for His name (see Matthew 10:22; Acts 5:40-41).

For Further Study:

Free online study tools (commentaries, dictionaries, etc.) at blueletterbible.org

Ten Secrets of Successful Living: A Perfect 10 for Families That Win by Adrian Rogers

All the Divine Names and Titles in the Bible by Herbert Lockyer