

For the Family

Tell the story of your child's name (or your name). Explain how you chose their name, and why it is important to you.

Tell the story of the *Burning Bush* from Exodus 3:1-18.

Explain how the bush was on fire, but didn't burn up. This got Moses' attention. When he got close, God told him to take off his sandals, because he was standing on holy ground. God told Moses he was going to rescue his people from Egypt, and was sending Moses to talk to Pharaoh (the leader of the Egyptians). Moses asked God, "If Pharaoh asks me what your name is, what shall I say?" God answered, "I AM WHO I AM."

Explain how God was saying that he always was, and always would be. He was the only God. (This will be a difficult concept for younger children; just explain that this name means God is powerful and important.)

Talk about how we are careful when we address someone important, like a teacher, or coach, or doctor. We don't call them by their first name; that would be considered rude. We usually call them by their title and their last name. We want to be respectful.

Read together the third commandment:

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.

Explain that this means we are to always show respect for God's name. We should never talk about *him* or *his name* in a disrespectful way.

Review the first three commandments:

Put God First
Worship Him Only
Keep God's Name Holy

Pray together that you will always keep God's name holy, and that you will never be disrespectful to him or his name.



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: ETCHED IN STONE

Don't Take the Lord's Name in Vain

The Third Commandment

Exodus 20:7

Last Week: We paused in our study of the 10 Commandments to look at a commandment found elsewhere in Scripture: *To serve the Lord and him alone*. As the Israelites were preparing to cross the Jordan River into the land God had prepared for them, Moses reminded them to never forget the Lord and what he had done for them. They were commanded to fear and worship him alone, and to serve him with all their heart, soul, and mind.

This Week: God has told his people to have no other gods, nor any kind of idol. Now he commands them to never take his name in vain. A name speaks to reputation, character, authority, identity, and other important characteristics of someone's essence. To take the Lord's name in vain is to use his name apart from his person, presence and power. It is an attempt to lessen God, and raise up the individual.

Observing

Read Exodus 20:7 -- *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.*

1. What do you think "*take the name of the LORD your God in vain*" means?
2. What do you think "*the LORD will not hold him guiltless*" means?

Connecting the Dots

God's Name

1. Read Exodus 3:1-18

What do you think "I AM WHO I AM" means? vs. 14

Try and put it into your own words.

Note: The word LORD, when spelled in small caps, represents the Hebrew word for God's name: Yahweh (Hebrew: YHWH). This word sounds like the Hebrew word for "I am." Whenever you see LORD, think back to Exodus 3:14: "I AM WHO I AM."

2. Read Exodus 6:1-9

Verses 6-8 record what the Lord said. Notice the phrase "I am the LORD" appears at the beginning, the end, and the middle of what God says.

What does God promise to do for the Israelites?

Why can they trust those promises?

3. Read Matthew 28:18-20

This is commonly known as The Great Commission, one of the final things Jesus said to his disciples before his ascension.

How does Jesus begin? vs. 18

How does he end? vs. 20

What does he command in between? vss. 19-20a

There are two promises:

All authority has been given to me

I will be with you always

There are three commands:

Make disciples ...

Baptizing *in the name* ...

Teaching them to observe ...

What is the relationship between the promises and the commands?

Why do you think we are told to baptize *in the name* ...?

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Lifting up God's Name

1. Read Matthew 6:9-13

This is commonly called "The Lord's Prayer," a model prayer Jesus taught his disciples. The first item in the prayer is *Hallowed be your name*. *Hallowed* means "to keep holy."

Why do you think Jesus put this at the very beginning of his model prayer?

2. Read Psalm 113:1-3

Why do you think we are encouraged to praise the *name* of the Lord?

Continuing the Journey

1. Overall, how much would you say you value the name of the Lord? Do you ever find yourself being too casual with his name, or being disrespectful to his name?

2. What type of things do you do in a typical week that are honestly done "in Jesus' name"?

3. What can you do to make sure that God's name is kept holy?

Next Steps:

- Rather than asking God to serve me (using his name for my benefit), I will ask God how I can serve him (to be used for his benefit).
- I will guard against the misuse of God's name (as a curse, an exclamation point, a cliché, a weapon, an endorsement, or by doing wrong).
- I will honor the name of God this week by: _____

Memory Verse – Exodus 20:7 – *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.*

During this series we will be memorizing a simplified version of the 10 Commandments. Here are the first three:

You shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make or worship any idol.

You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.

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