

T H E T E N

COMMANDMENTS
THROUGH THE EYES OF JESUS

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 3 September 3, 2023

“Keeping Promises, Hallowing God’s Name”

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for being the source and sustainer of our lives. Forgive us for the times we have taken your name in vain Lord. When we used it like there was no significance. When we drug it through the mud with our actions or our word. Forgive us for the moments we freely told lies when we did not even intend to keep the promises that we made. Help us be people of integrity who reflect your love to the world around us so that people are drawn to you through us. Help us to keep the 3rd commandment. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Exodus 20:7 (NIV)

“You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.”

Leviticus 19:12 (NIV)

“Do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God. I am the Lord.”

Numbers 30:2 (NIV)

When a man makes a vow to the Lord or takes an oath to obligate himself by a pledge, he must not break his word but must do everything he said.

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INTRODUCTION

Our personal names are important. They go hand in hand with our integrity and character. No one wants someone to steal their identity and tarnish their reputation. God feels the same way about his name. So the 3rd commandment says “Do not misuse the name of Yahweh your God.” Some of us were taught that this commandment is about profanity. But the primary lesson this commandment was teaching was about promise keeping and truth telling.

We misuse God’s name when we:

- 1) invoke it for a promise we don’t intend to keep,
- 2) speak about him or for him in ways not consistent with his character, and
- 3) use God’s name in profanity.

Jesus calls us to not just avoid doing what is prohibited by the 3rd commandment, but to positively “hallow” God’s name – not only in our words but also in our actions.

QUESTIONS

1. Read Exodus 20:7 (on page 1). Before you heard Pastor Eric’s sermon, what did you think the 3rd commandment was primarily about?
2. Read Leviticus 19:12 and Numbers 30:2 (on page 1). Have you ever, intentionally or by mistake, over-promised and under-delivered? In what ways can you practice greater honesty in your dealings with others and with yourself?
3. If someone experienced a tragedy in their lives and you said to them “it must be God’s will, or everything happens for a reason, or God has a plan,” how is that a violation of the 3rd commandment?
4. Do you struggle with using God’s name in profanity?
5. How can you hallow God’s name?

FINAL APPLICATION

What can you do this week to hallow God’s name?