

The Ten Commandments.



Word 3: You shall not misuse the name of God. Exodus 20:7

“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain” (Ex. 20:7). God’s name and His character are inseparable. Using His holy name lightly in a vain, empty manner is insulting and degrading. This could be done by perjuring oneself in a court of law (Lev. 19:12) or by cursing. However, this commandment also applies to hypocritical worship, using God’s name in meaningless prayer and praise (Is. 29:13). This is the last (or first in our studies) of the three commandments about God himself. the name of God is on display through the way we live. It is by His name we are identified. Our lifestyle is expected to portray the moral values, character, and virtues of God. The character we display in our public and private lives must be consistent with the qualities the name of God represents.

1 What does the name of God mean to you?

The first name mentioned in the Bible is the fourth word, God! This is the name Elohim, meaning The All-Powerful One, in relation to God and His creation. It is found over 2’300 times in the Bible.

2 How many other names of God / Jesus can you think of, and their meaning? You might like to jot these down?

God’s name is holy and to be treated with respect. There is power in the name of the Lord, and should not be used lightly. We know God through Him through the Holy Spirit, and to take his name in vain violates God’s nature.

3 How have you seen or heard the name of God or Jesus Christ being treated lightly. How do, or have you responded to these examples? Why does the name of God seem to carry no weight in today’s society?

4 What is Leviticus 19:12 and James 5:12 about? How might this relate to this commandment?

In our relationship with God, we are able to call Him personal names like Father and Lord.

5 What is the difference between a name and a title, by knowing someone only by their title (Mrs, Major, Professor, Doctor, Bishop, etc.) and being able to call them by their personal name?
See Isaiah 9:6, how does Jesus live up to these titles?

Read Exodus 34:5-7. Here the Lord defines who he is and what his name means.

6 What is there to encourage us to approach God? Why might this challenge us to respect God?

7 What does Acts 4:11.12 and Philippians 2:9-11 tell us about the proper use of the name of Jesus?

God is the greatest being in the universe. Therefore His name is the greatest name and is to be honoured (Matt. 6:9).

When you close in prayer, consider how you might use and invoke the name of the Lord, when you say ‘Amen’.