



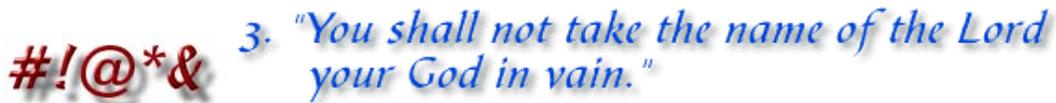
Family Study Guides

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

3. "YOU SHALL NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD YOUR GOD IN VAIN."

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Family Study Guide



[We suggest that as you use this Family Study Guide, select and focus on a main portion or two that you feel will help your family's study into the commandment. You do not need to cover every aspect, discussion or scripture presented in this guide. Select the aspects or principles most relevant or helpful to your family.]

Objectives:

- Help your children explain why it is wrong to take God's name in vain.
- Help your children describe how to show true respect for our Creator God.

MEMORY VERSE:

Exodus 20:7 NKJV "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."

Or Exodus 20:7 NLT "Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God. The LORD will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name."

What does "take" mean?

- The Hebrew word for "take" is *nasa* or *nasah*. It also means lift or carry.
- Read the *Beyond Today* blog, "Are you sure you really know the Third Commandment?" and learn more about the meaning behind this word. <https://www.ucg.org/beyond-today/blogs/are-you-sure-you-really-know-the-third-commandment>
- We should "carry" or "lift up" God's name with honorable speech, thoughts, and actions.

What does "vain" mean?

- *Vain* means empty, futile, useless, false, unreal, worthless, pointless, to no purpose
- How does the meaning of "vain" in this commandment connect to what God says in the first and second commandments?

What are two ways in which God's name is sometimes taken in vain?

1. Have you ever noticed how some people will say God's or Jesus' name anytime they are startled, amazed, hurt, angry or upset? People also combine God's name with a curse word. How do you think God feels when His holy name is used in that manner? Look again at the meaning of "vain." How does just randomly using God's name fit these synonyms?
2. Another way we can take God's name in vain is by bringing shame upon his name by our actions. When we follow God's ways, He calls us His children and we become a part of the family of God. In that way we take or carry His name, just like you carry the last name of your parents.
John 1:12 "Some, however, did receive him and believed in him; so he gave them the right to become God's children. 13 They did not become God's children by natural means, that is, by being born as the children of a human father; God himself was their Father." {TEV}

Every family has rules to follow. We honor our families by following those rules.

What are some values that “define” your family and your behavior? For example, “Our respects our elders,” “We keep our promises,” etc. If we behave differently, in a sense, we end up taking our family name in vain.

Similarly, God has rules for His family and we honor Him by keeping his laws. If we don’t obey him - we have taken His name – but in vain.

Romans 2:23 *“You are so proud of knowing God’s laws, but you dishonor him by breaking them. 24 No wonder the Scriptures say that the world speaks evil of God because of you.”* {TLB}

It is wrong to take God’s—or anybody’s—name in a vain manner.

Biblical Example:

In **Leviticus 24:10-15** we find the story of a man who cursed God, or used hateful words along with God’s name. Using God’s name in this way is called blaspheming God.

As a family read and discuss what happened to that man and why.

The man was stoned to death for blaspheming God. This was how they dealt with very difficult people in the camp of Israel. Because of Christ’s sacrifice, we now are able to be forgiven when we repent after we’ve done something wrong. We do not stone people now as they did at that time, but this example shows that God takes it very seriously when someone uses His name in a wrong way.

Possible Family Discussions:

The Third Commandment says that we should not misuse God’s name, and that God does not take it lightly if we do.

- **How can God’s name be misused?**

1. Making His name unimportant or using it in a “vain” way. (review the meaning of “vain”) For example: We should all respect the President of the United States, Mr. Donald Trump. What if we all started saying all the time: “Donald, Donald, Donald...” and never really thought of him as the President. We would be using his name, but it would not be honoring him as President.
2. What is “holy” in this commandment and what does it mean to keep something holy? Tie commandments #1 and #2 to the 3rd commandment.
3. People use God’s name often – but not in the context of honor and respect. How many of you hear God’s name used at school or on TV in a casual manner? (Ex- “Oh, God” or texting “OMG!”) (With the older students it would be helpful to go over some commonly used words that break commandment #3)
4. People use God’s name as a curse word instead of to worship and honor Him
5. The word “damn” is not a curse word by itself. What does it mean?
So people are using Gods’ name to curse things. **Lev 19:12** *“Do not bring shame on the name of your God by using it to swear falsely. I am the Lord.*
We cannot invoke God’s name to curse someone. This uses God’s name uselessly. It is also a type of stealing God’s good name and changing it into something disrespectful.
6. Using God’s name to “endorse” something that God does not say.
What if you were talking with some friends and told them, “My **mother** wants me to smoke this cigarette!” That is what people today do with God. They say that God wants them to worship Him by observing Christmas, Easter, or church on Sunday.

7. Is that true? If not, then it is lying and using God's name falsely. We must all be careful of trying to make something wrong or right by trying to attach God's name to it. If we are going to use God's name, we need to make it very meaningful. We can say "God says for us to keep His commandments" That is quoting Him and using His name properly.
- **Discuss ways God's name could be taken in vain.** Have each family member count the number of times that they hear His name misused at school, on TV, at work, or with friends in a given time period, maybe for a couple of days. Then talk again and compare your results.
 - **How DOES God want us to use His name?** How can we speak in a way that will honor Him? Discuss ways of using God's name that are pleasing to Him.
 - ✓ Praising God shows that we appreciate Him and all that He gives us.
 - ✓ We can praise Him in prayer.
 - ✓ We can praise Him in song. David, the person the Bible calls "a man after God's own heart," wrote poetry that he put to music—called psalms.
 - Think about another way to honor God's name. **Ephesians 5:4** *"Let there be no filthiness (obscenity, indecent) nor foolish and sinful (silly and corrupt) talk, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting or becoming; but instead voice your thankfulness (to god)".*
Do you know what is right in the area of language? Are you willing to do what is right in a world where vulgarity and coarse language is commonplace?
 - Discuss ways that we can keep this and other commandments without offending or judging others. How do we respond when Grandma keeps Christmas? What do we do when Uncle Bob curses using God's name? Explain that many people do not know any better and it is not the child's job to confront or to change them. **Colossians 4:5** {Amplified} *Behave yourselves wisely [living prudently and with discretion] in your relations with those of the outside world (the non-Christians...*

Additional Family Resources that can be used in your discussions:

- **UCG Study Booklet "The Ten Commandments"** <https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/the-ten-commandments>
- **Beyond Today Bible Study Series "The Ten Commandments"**
<https://www.ucg.org/beyond-today/beyond-today-bible-study/ten-commandments>
- **UCG Teen Bible Study Guide "The Third Commandment--Do Not Misuse God's Name"**
<https://www.ucg.org/teen-bible-study/teen-bible-study-volume-3-ten-commandments/third-commandment-do-not-misuse-gods-nam>

OPTIONAL CLASS ACTIVITIES

1. Discuss some scenarios:

- ✓ Joey's teacher often says, "Oh, my god." It bothers Joey. What should he do in this situation and how should he do it?
- ✓ Melissa heard her friend say, "Jesus Christ" when she got mad. Melissa tried saying it herself the next time something bothered her. What effect does this have on Melissa's friend? Her family? Her church, Melissa?
- ✓ Your brother or sister has a habit of misusing God's name but wants to stop. What advice do you have that would help him/her?
- ✓ Your friends often times break rules at church services, but don't actually use foul language or say inappropriate things like "OMG." They don't get caught, and it may even be fun to do the same things they are doing. Are they taking God's name in vain? Why or why not?

2. Praising Gods' Name worksheet.

Make copies of the fill-in-the-blank *Praising God's Name* poem. Found on the last page. Cover up the answers side before copying the hand-outs.

3. "Save the Last Word for Me" Activity

Directions: This is a discussion strategy to help all participants discuss and explain the importance of a scripture or statement. The scriptures below all relate to keeping God's name holy.

1. Give each participant an index card with the scripture written at the top (example: Colossians 3:8). First, instruct the participant to look up the scripture in their Bible and write it on one side of the card. Then, on the other side of the card, have them write a comment or reaction to the scripture. Some possible reactions: How do they see this statement applied or not apply in their lives or in society? How would it be helpful at home, school, with friends, or at work? What person or event in the Bible comes to mind when you read this scripture? (Instructors: This is the time it is important to circulate and check in with participants as they think about what the scripture means. Help them to understand the meaning accurately if needed before they form their thoughts.)
2. Divide into groups of about 3-5 students. All participants in the group will share their scripture card. The first student reads their scripture to the group and shows where to locate it in the Bible. However, the student isn't allowed to make any comments about his or her scripture until all other members of the group give their reactions. What do they think the scripture means? Why do they think it is important? How might this apply to their lives or other examples from the Bible? (It may be helpful to time this part for about 2 minutes.) The student who read the scripture gets the last word in the discussion by reading what they wrote on the back of the index card. This process continues until everyone in the group has shared at least one scripture and has provided the last word in the discussion.
3. Come back as a whole group and discuss for 3-4 minutes how participants deepened their understanding of this Commandment or a particular scripture through this discussion.

Note: This strategy can be used to discuss any set of related scriptures.

Scriptures for the "Save the Last Word for Me" Activity

- **Colossians 3:8** ESV But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.
- **Exodus 20:7** ESV "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.
- **Ephesians 4:29** ESV Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.
- **Ephesians 5:4-5** ESV Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.
- **Psalms 145:3, 21** NKJV Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; And His greatness is unsearchable...My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord, And all flesh shall bless His holy name Forever and ever.
- **1 Timothy 6:20** ESV O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called "knowledge,"
- **Philippians 4:8** ESV Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.
- **Romans 2:21-24:** "... You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? You who say, 'Do not commit adultery,' do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law? For 'the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,' as it is written."
- **Matthew 12:34-35** ESV You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.
- **Ezekiel 39:7** God's Word Translation I will make My holy name known among My people Israel, and I will never let them dishonor My holy name again. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.
- **Matthew 12:36-37** ESV I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."
- **James 5:12** ESV But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.
- **Malachi 1:6** NKJV A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am the Father, where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is my reverence?
- **Hebrews 4:13** ESV And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.
- **Leviticus 19:12** ESV You shall not swear by My name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord.
- **Proverbs 31:26** ESV She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
- **Proverbs 17:4** NKJV An evildoer gives heed to false lips; A liar listens eagerly to a spiteful tongue.
- **Proverbs 18:7** NKJV A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul.
- **Matthew 18:19-20** NKJV Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.

- **Acts 4:12** Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.
- **Revelation 3:8** I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.
- **Revelation 22:4** They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.

Praising God's Name!

(Words to choose from: **too** **enough** **wear** **own** **sweet** **planned**)

Answers

(Cover before copying)

I think that God is very grand
for all the good things He has _____.

planned

I'm thankful for the sky so blue
and for the earth beneath it _____.

too

For us to breathe, He made clean air
and gives nice clothes for us to _____.

wear

He made good things for us to eat—
Some food is salty and some is _____.

sweet

With family I'm not alone
And God provides the things we _____.

own

He helps me out when things get tough,
I cannot praise my God _____.

enough