



# The Ten Commandments

## What's in a name?

### Do not misuse God's Name

Exodus 20:7

#### Teaching Aim

To show how serious it is to misuse God's name.

#### Setting the scene

When you pray the Lord's prayer, what do you pray about God's Name? - that it may be hallowed. Have you ever really thought about what that means - that it is to be honoured and respected - or do you say it glibly like a line from a poem? God's Name is very special yet we hear it being misused by all sorts of people in all sorts of situations. In this lesson, we learn what God says about the use of His Name.

#### The importance of God's Name

Read Exodus 20:7. In Bible times, names were chosen very carefully for they were meant to reveal something about the character of the person. If a person told you their name, it meant they trusted you because they were telling you something about themselves. God's Name is very special and is the most important Name in the Bible. What do you think about when you hear God's Name or when you use His Name? Is it as a swear word that dishonours Him or as praise which is to honour Him? God has many titles and all titles for God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit must be treated with great respect.

#### Misusing God's Name

Why do people misuse God's Name? It proves that they don't love God or they wouldn't want to insult and hurt Him. Perhaps they don't believe that He exists or they don't think that it matters how they use His Name. In what ways do people misuse God's Name? They use God's Name carelessly as an exclamation of shock, surprise, delight or pain etc. Is it only with the lips that God's Name can be misused? No, if we have the same thoughts, they dishonour God's Name. We can also misuse God's Name by our behaviour. If we claim to be Christians, we are saying that we are followers of Christ and have His Name but, if our behaviour is sinful, we are dishonouring God's Name. If you did something bad and let down the good name of your family, how would they feel? - hurt and angry. How do you think God feels when your behaviour insults Him? - hurt and angry. He doesn't overlook the misuse of His Name and has warned that He will punish all those who use it wrongly. Read Leviticus 14:10-18. What was the punishment for the man who had cursed God? - stoned to death, the same punishment

as for murder. It may be that you have misused God's Name without realising how seriously God looks on it. Now that you know, if you're truly sorry and ask for forgiveness, God will forgive you. If you're a Christian, pray that God will help you to control your tongue, thoughts and behaviour.

## Respecting God's Name

How should we use God's Name? Most importantly, we should use it to call on the Lord for salvation - read Romans 10:13. Once we have done that, we will begin to realise how great and holy God is and will want to honour His Name. We should want to praise His Name, speak to Him as our Heavenly Father and behave in a way that will bring honour to His Name. Do you feel hurt and angry when you hear the Name of God being dishonoured or do you take no notice? We should have the courage to speak up and say how hurtful it is to hear the Name of our Lord being treated with disrespect. What did Job do when he was under pressure to curse God's Name? Read Job 1:20-22. Instead of cursing God, when calamity and suffering came to him, he praised and worshipped Him. What did King David promise to do to bring glory to God's Name - Psalm 145 verses 1, 2 and 21? God will bless those who obey His command to honour His Name - Psalm 145:17-19. We all need to be careful how we use God's Name. When we're singing hymns or praying, is it from our heart or is it merely a ritual?

## Summing up

In the Third Commandment, God forbids everyone to use His Name wrongly and warns of the punishment for disobedience. Will you try, with God's help, to remember how special His Name is and to honour it by all you say, do and think?

## Resources

### Discussion

- What would you do if you were asked to take a part in a school play which involved using God's name as a swear word?
- How would you explain to a friend how serious it is to misuse God's name?
- How could you be dishonouring God's name in your CE meeting?
- Is it permissible for a Christian to take an oath in court? See Deut 6:13; Lev 19:12

### Activities

Activity Sheet "Third Commandment - Do not misuse God's Name - 1".

### Prayer Points

Thank God for:

- Jesus Whose name means He will save His people from their sins.
- Christians who have the courage to oppose TV / radio programmes and films which misuse God's name.

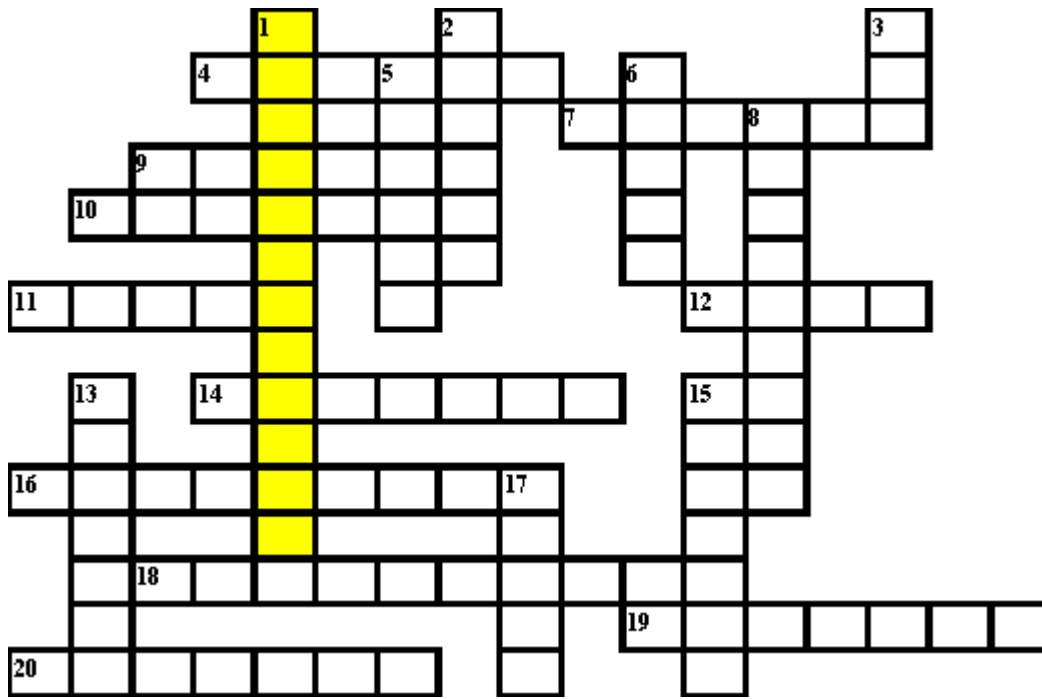
Pray that:

- Those who only know the name Jesus as a swear word will come to know Jesus as their Saviour.
- Christians will not only respect God's name but give Him the glory and honour He deserves.

# What's in a name?

## Do not misuse God's name

### Word Grid



1. There are ten of these.
2. God will do this to those who dishonour His Name.
3. We must not misuse the Name of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. This is a dangerous member of our body.
5. Those who dishonour God's Name will be considered \_\_\_\_\_ by Him.
6. A king who honoured God's Name.
7. God's Name is to be \_\_\_\_\_ when we speak of Him.
8. How God looks on the breaking of His Commandments.
9. We are not to bring dishonour on this of God.
10. Many people do this with God's laws.
11. The number of the Commandment we are studying.
12. Another Name for God.
13. God will do this if we have misused His Name but are sorry.
14. Another Name for God starting with J.
15. We must do this with our tongue and thoughts.
16. David praised God for this.
17. God's Name is often used as this kind of word.
18. In the Old Testament this sort of person was stoned.
19. What we must do if we break God's Law.
20. This is due to God's Name.