

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT  
The Ten Commandments — Week 5

**ICEBREAKER:** On a scale of 1 to 10, how close to God do you feel? Explain.

**OVERVIEW:** We all desire respect. And when we don't get it, we feel violated. When people treat us like we are worthless and unimportant, we feel moral outrage. Every human being deserves respect, because they are made in the image of God. But if human beings deserve respect, then the Creator of mankind deserves respect infinitely more. God is the creator and ruler of the universe, and He deserves our utmost respect. And one of the most important ways to show our respect for God is with our words about Him. In this discussion we will go deeper with how to keep the third commandment — "Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God...."

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Read Matthew 12:36-37. Why does God care so much about our words?
3. Read Leviticus 24:10-16. Do think God's punishment was too harsh? Explain.
4. Read Exodus 20:7. What does the third commandment forbid? What does it mean to "misuse" God's name, or to take God's name "in vain"?
5. Read Isaiah 42:8. What does this verse say is God's name? Is this the only word that we must avoid misusing to keep the fourth commandment? Explain.

6. What are some of God's other names and titles? Why does He have so many?
7. What are some ways that people break the third commandment?
8. Have you recently misused God's name? If so, explain.
9. Read Leviticus 18:21. What does it mean to profane God's name?
10. Read Deuteronomy 6:13 and Matthew 5:33-37. Is it okay to take oaths or not? Explain.
11. Every commandment is both positive and negative. The negative side of the third commandment is to avoid misusing God's name. What is the positive side of this commandment (what does it command us to do)? (Hint: Read Matthew 6:9.)
12. Read Exodus 20:7 again. What does it mean that "God will not leave anyone unpunished who misuses His name"?

**The Last Word:** Here's a good rule of thumb. If you're not sure if a word or phrase is a misuse of God's name, then just don't say it. Err on the side of respect for God's name.