

Discussion Questions

- In what ways have you broken the third commandment?
- How has Jesus kept the third commandment perfectly for His people?
- Are your prayers to God and uses of His name in vain? Or do you call His name in faith?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

When you introduce yourself to someone, what are you hoping they will do with that information? God names Himself for us so that we can relate to Him and testify to others about Him. With His name, we learn that Yahweh, the “I AM,” has always existed and will always exist. Who He is, how He reveals Himself, and what we are to call Him are all intricately connected. To use His name in ways that are not consistent with the majesty of His character is to take His name in vain. It is of no benefit. In fact, it is a denial of all the glory He deserves and is a bigger deal than many of us have ever realized. A lack of reverence for God’s name is enough to warrant judgment and death, and yet Jesus is our perfect savior. In all things, he honors the name of the Father, and by His death and resurrection those who were once counted guilty can now be counted clean. *And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.* (Joel 2:32).

Discussion Questions

- How do you tend to introduce yourself to someone new? What information do you include?
- Has God introduced Himself to you? Do you really know Him? Share briefly what this means in your life.

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, October 20th, 2024)

Baptist Catechism Question #58

Q: Which is the third commandment?

A: The third commandment is, Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Suggested Memory Verse

Exodus 20:7 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.

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

What is in a name? This week we begin looking at the third commandment, which focuses on the name of the Lord. People's names can reveal a lot about them, and it's interesting to learn about how their name was chosen, its origin and language, or whether they are named "after" a special person or place. Some people go by their middle name instead of their first. Some don't even have a middle name and others have two; some have hyphenated names; some use alternate spellings; and some people go by something that's not even their given name at all. A person's name can give you clues about what they believe, how they think and act, what their culture is like, and how others speak about them. This is even more true of God. The Hebrew name for God as revealed in the Old Testament is "Yahweh." Since the Hebrew language does not include vowels, it would actually be written as "YHWH," sometimes called the tetragrammaton (because it is four letters). YHWH is the Hebrew word that means "being," so our English Bibles often translate it as "I AM," or "LORD" in all caps. When Moses asked who had sent him to tell the people, God said... "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you'" (Exodus 3:14). Even with His name, God reveals something very important about who He is. We should worship our creator and sustainer *Yawe*.

Discussion Questions

- Do you have any nicknames? How did you get them? What do they say about you?
- Can you think of other names for God given in Scripture? How do they help reveal more about who God is?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The first part of this week's answer is, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain." What does *vain* mean? It means producing no result, useless, worthless, or having no meaning. If you say someone's "efforts were in vain" it means their work was wasted and pointless. Similarly, it is possible to use God's name in a way that does not match its meaning or makes it seem worthless. That is taking His name in vain. God is perfect, loving, holy, and righteous, and the way we speak about Him should reflect that reality. We should never be careless in how we speak about God. Certainly, God's name should never be used as a swear word, but taking His name in vain can mean so much more than just that. There are those who casually throw His name around as a way to improve their own standing, or who make promises in God's name and then break those promises. That makes God's name seem worthless. Matthew 5:33-37 warns people to be careful about taking oaths. It says not to invoke God's name in that way (or our own name, since we are not sovereign), but rather to just live a life of honesty letting our simple "yes" or "no" stand as trustworthy. God's name is precious and should not be used carelessly for our own benefit. *You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD* (Leviticus 19:12).

Discussion Questions

- Have you ever felt like something you did was pointless ("in vain")?
- How can you begin to use God's name in a way that is more purposeful rather than pointless?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

God has given us names by which we can know Him. Rather than taking God's name "in vain," we should use it in ways that help us and others to know Him better. Psalm 99:3 says... *Let them praise your great and awesome name! Holy is He!* We should praise God, worship Him because His name is awesome and holy! We should respect God rather than dishonor His name. Philippians 2:9-11 says... *Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.* Part of reverencing God's name is to bow the knee in humility and confess publicly Jesus is the Lord. It involves gathering together for corporate worship. *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near* (Hebrews 10:24-25). We honor His name by being obedient to His word, by proclaiming the gospel to others, by praying for one another in the name of Christ.

Discussion Questions

- How can you honor God's name in a way that helps others to know Him rightly?
- If you are a Christian, which of God's names is most meaningful to you? Why?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Let's not overlook the last part of this week's answer: "...for the Lord will not hold him *guiltless* who takes his name in vain." The word *guiltless* can also be translated as "clean." People today might think that there isn't any harm in saying a few words strung together, or dishonoring God's name, but those who take His name in vain will be declared guilty. Scripture tells us in Romans 3:23, that we *all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*. We are all guilty. It also warns us in Romans 6:23 that *the wages of sin is death*. We are all guilty of sin, and we all deserve death. On Judgment day we will mourn our empty and trite uses of God's name. BUT... In Jesus Christ, we can be declared free from our slavery to sin and forgiven from the penalty of our sin. He shed His blood as a cleansing sacrifice to atone for sin and make us *guiltless* and clean if we will call out to Him—not in vain—but in faith. Romans 5:8 says, *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us*. It is important for us to understand that taking God's name in vain is a grievous sin. God first loved us, and He calls us to repent, turn to Christ alone, and live a life of obedience to Him.