

**The Ten
Understanding the Cussing Commandment- Session #2
Small Group Notes**

NOTE: In this week's sermon notes, there are many different points. As you facilitate the discussion, you may feel pressed to try and get through all of them. That is not the purpose of our discussion time. Let the Lord show you as you approach each point if you need to camp out longer or not.

Introduction:

Do a quick recap of last week's commandments.

First commandment: You shall have no other gods before me.

Second commandment: Don't make for yourself an idol.

Did you have any nicknames you didn't like when you were growing up? Any nicknames you did like?

What do nicknames say about what people think about you?

What are the most common names you use when you're talking about or to God? What are some ways those names can be misused? Explain.

In today's discussion, we are going to understand more of what the Third Commandment (Exodus 20:7) is teaching us that moves from cussing to our praise!

Discuss: Understanding the Cussing Commandment

1. The Third Law is about more than our language, but not less

- Read these verses as a group: Exodus 20:7; Psalm 19:14; Colossians 3:8; Matthew 12:34
- The Third Commandment is about more than cussing, but not less.

Explain: In the Hebrews culture, to misuse the Lord's name misrepresented His character, purposes, and actions revealed to the people of Israel and amounted to lying about who God is. Thus, the heart of the people was often revealed in that they their speech reflected a heart not surrendered to the Lord but rather rebellious.

Ask:

How do these verses above speak to our language as well as our heart?

What does it mean for my language to set me apart as a Christ-follower?

2. The Third Law says do not leverage God's name for your credibility.

- Read as a group Leviticus 19:12; Matthew 5:33-37
- Don't use God's name to cover for your lack of character.
- Breaking an oath is misusing the name of the Lord!

Explain: To swear by the Lord's name was an affirmation of allegiance to Him that was demonstrated by acts. Sadly, we can see this in celebrities or with businesses that try to appeal to more of a Christian audience when the character of their views or practices does not reflect Christ. Therefore, to misuse the name of the Lord can be where we use God's name for our own credibility and yet our character reflects totally opposite.

Ask:

What is the difference in being a business that honors the Lord and a business that uses the Lord for their own profits? How can this even happen in our own lives?

**In what way could I be using God's character to cover a flaw in mine?
How serious is God about this directive?**

3. The Third law says don't leverage God's name for your own agenda!

Explain: In history there have been different things that have happened in the "name of God." Examples include the atrocities of the crusades and slavery. We can often try to invoke the name of God as a blessing on our agendas as a way to abuse the name of God and weaponize it for our own purposes.

Ask:

How can using God's name in this way actually alienate people more than draw them closer to Christ?

In what area of my life can I be prone to play the 'God card'? How can this backfire? What are ways that we can prevent this mentality in our lives?

4. The Third law says don't be overly informal with His name.

Explain: Just as we do not want our name to be thrown around and used in a negative way, God as well desire from us to honor and revere His name. It may begin with how we use popular statements such as Oh My ___ but it then moves towards recognizing areas in our life that we practice using His name casually as well without the consideration of the implications.

Ask:

Have I become too informal in speaking to or of the Lord?

How can being casual with our speech regarding the Lord be a turn off to those that are not followers of Jesus?

5. The Third law says don't associate God's name with anything He is not associated with!

- Read Colossians 3:17
- At salvation you had a chance in name and nature.

Explain: We are given a new name when we are born again, meaning that we have a name as a child of God and co-heir of Christ that bears the name of God. Therefore, the way that we live out this commandment is by how we are sharing (bearing) the Lord's name to others?

Ask:

How does understanding that you bear the name of Jesus at all times impact your behavior in situations?

What attitude or action am I associated with that the Lord is not associated with?

6. The Third law challenges us to give our words a higher calling!

- Read Psalm 29:2; Ephesians 4:29; Revelation 4:8-11

Explain: In these verses we hear the call to honor the Lord in our praise and adoration. Then we see the scene of Revelation 4 of people that are constantly praising the Lord. They are praising His nature along with His works. Therefore, the call for us is to have a lifestyle of worship that honors God at all times.

Ask:

How can you honor the Lord's name in your worship this week?

How does our worship of the Lord begin with singing and then go to other parts of our lives (sharing our faith, prayer, acknowledging His goodness)?