

Carved in Stone

Embracing God's Value System

Children's Lesson Five

What's In a Name?

PURPOSE

The purpose of this lesson is to explore what the third commandment, "You shall not misuse God's name," really means. The children are bombarded everyday with language contrary to the way God wants them to their language. The chief misuse of language is using God's name in vain. This lesson explores why God's name is holy and should be treated with respect.

OBJECTIVES

The children will:

- Explore the meanings of names and the names of God.
- Understand the importance of God's name.
- Understand why God's name is to be used with awe and reverence.

SCRIPTURE

I Exodus 20:7

WHAT YOU NEED

- Commandment Crest and third badge
- Glue
- A copy of the story for each child
- Construction paper 8 ½"x11"
- Markers
- Baby name book
- Copy of third commandment to place on bulletin board
- Clothes hangers, one per child
- Hole punch
- Yarn or string
- Copies of "What's in a Name?" Word Search



Setting the Scene

1. Check to see if any children returned offerings in their offering boxes today.
2. **Commandment Crest.** The children need to locate their Commandment Crests and glue the third commandment badges on.
3. **Acrostics.** As the children enter the classroom, have each student pick up a piece of construction paper and a marker. While setting at tables, have the children write their first

names vertically down the page. Then have them write characteristics of themselves beginning with the letters of their names. For example:

J jogs everyday	S swings on the swingset
o outside activities	u unique
e eats everything	e enjoys playing with friends

For the younger children who may not be able to write, let them tell volunteers what they like to do to correspond with the letters and the volunteers can write it down. Or the younger children could draw pictures of things or characteristics corresponding to the letters.

After all of the children are finished, let them share their acrostics with the class. Let them discuss what they wrote and why.

3. **Baby Name Game.** Bring a baby name book to class. First ask if any of the children know what their names mean. Allow children who volunteer to describe what they know. Then ask the children if any were named after someone special. Solicit responses. Then look up several names in the baby name book and tell the students what their names mean.

TRANSITION

Names are important to all of us. Your name is how everyone knows you. Names were even more important in Bible times. Names not only identified a person but even foretold what the person was like in some instances. For example:

- **Abraham**—exalted Father of many people
- **Issac**—one who laughs
- **Jacob**—heel-grasper
- **Israel**—one who has wrestled with God

In the Old Testament God has many names. It is as if not just one name can describe all of the characteristics of God. Several examples of names for God are:

- **El-"The Deity"**—God in the power and distinctiveness of his divine nature
- **Elohim**—The One who completely possesses all the divine attributes
- **Adon or Adoni**—Sovereign Lord
- **Yahweh**—The Lord who is actively present
- **Jehovah**—The eternal, self-existent One
- **Jehovah-Rophe**—Jehovah Heals
- **Jehovah-Nissi**—Jehovah, my banner
- **Jehovah-Shalom**—Jehovah is peace
- **Jehovah-Sidkenu-Jehovah**—our righteousness

Because God is so special we need to use his name only in awe and reverence. We should not use it as a bad word or a word used when we are upset. We need to

reserve God's name for special times when we are talking to him. God wants all of us to use his name carefully. That is why he created the third commandment.

Place a copy of the third commandment on the bulletin board and explain it to the children. You may want to discuss what misusing the name of God means. We use it inappropriately when we are upset or angry or when we are not referring to God at all.

Let's see what The Commandment Kids have to say about the third commandment.

STORY

Distribute copies of the story for the children to read aloud or you may want to tell the story to the younger children.

QUESTIONS

1. **What does it mean to misuse God's name?** (To use it disrespectfully or profanely.)
2. **Why do you think people talk like that?** (Other people do it and they hear it and think it is okay or maybe they don't know they should not talk like that. Some may talk like that to be tough or fit in with the crowd.)
3. **What can you do to not talk like that?** (Use other words when upset or pray for guidance not to say God's name inappropriately.)

ACTIVITIES

1. **Name Mobile.** For this activity the children can make a mobile of God's names.
 - A. Hand each child a hanger.
 - B. Each child should also have squares of paper about 3"x3". (For the young children you may want to print a different name for God on each slip. For the children who can write, let them write a name of God on one side of each slip of paper. On the other side, the children need to write what the name means. Use the above names for this activity.
 - C. Punch a hole at the top of each slip of paper.
 - D. Each child needs to have yarn in varying lengths and colors if possible. The children will then slip the yarn through the hole in the slip of paper and tie a knot. The child will tie the other end of the string to the hanger. They then can take the mobile home to hang in their rooms.
2. **Word Search.** Using the 'What's in a Name?' Word Search worksheet, let the children find the different names for God found in the Old Testament.

Today we learned that God's name is sacred and should be used with honor and respect. Just like we don't like it when people misuse our names, God wants us to use his name with awe and respect.

You might want to encourage the children to continue practicing the commandments they have learned so far and begin memorizing the fourth commandment.

End with a prayer.

STORY

- T.J.'s teacher: Class, I want you to say hello to a new classmate. His name is Alvin and he has moved into the neighborhood. I want everyone of you to introduce yourself to him sometime today. Alvin, I think you will find this class to be very friendly.
- Alvin: Thank you. (As he walks to his new desk, he shyly looks around at his new classmates.)
- Narrator: During recess The Commandment Kids approach Alvin to say hi and introduce themselves. While approaching him, they hear Alvin yelling for glee because he had just kicked a homerun in kickball. What they heard next shocked them. They heard Alvin say God's name in a disrespectful way. They hoped maybe they had misheard Alvin, so they didn't say anything about it.
- T.J.: Alvin, I'm T.J. it is really great to have you in our class. I am new to the school this year too. I know it is hard to move and start a new school, so if there is anything I can do to help I'll be glad to.
- Charlotte: Hi, I'm Charlotte. I'm really good in math so if you need help I can help you.
- Frankie: Hi, I'm Frankie. Hey do you play any sports? My soccer team is looking for another player this fall. We could use any help we could get.
- Alvin: Sure, I play sports. Not soccer, but I'm always willing to try something new. Thanks.
- Chelsea: Hi, I'm Chelsea.
- Kassy: Hi, I'm Kassy. Where did you move from? Where is your new house at?
- Alvin: We moved here from down south a bit. My dad is in the military so we move around a lot. Our new house is just that way two blocks. (Alvin raises his hand and points as he says this.)
- Geoffrey: Hi, I'm Geoffrey. We have a great science program here. If you like science you'll really like this school.
- Alvin: Yeah, okay.
- T.J.: Oh, there's the school bell, we better head into the classroom.
- Narrator: The Commandment Kids move into their classroom and get settled for math. As they get to know Alvin over the next couple of weeks, they notice Alvin uses God's name in a sentence whenever he is upset or frustrated. This troubles The Commandment Kids. They decide to meet to discuss this new kid, Alvin. One day after school they gather at the oak tree for a meeting of the club.
- Frankie: Have you heard the way Alvin talks?
- Chelsea: Yeah, I have heard him misuse God's name. Every time he does it, it sounds like nails on a chalkboard to me since I'm not used to hearing that. Do you think he does it on purpose?
- Charlotte: I wonder if he even knows it is wrong to use God's name in a sentence like that?
- T.J.: That's a good point, Charlotte. A lot of people don't know it is wrong to use God's name so disrespectfully. They hear that type of language all of the time and just figure since everyone does it, it must be okay.

Geoffrey: But we know it is wrong. The third commandment tells us it is wrong and it even tells us that God will hold responsible anyone who uses that type of language.

Kassy: Hey, how about if we invite him to one of our meetings and we can tell him about the commandment and maybe he will change the way he talks.

Narrator: The club thought that was a good idea, so T.J. volunteered to ask Alvin to come to their next meeting. One day at recess T.J. and Alvin were playing basketball and the time seemed right to ask him to come to a club meeting. Alvin said sure and so the club has gathered under the oak tree to talk to Alvin about his choice of words.

Alvin: Thanks for letting me come to your club meeting. It is so hard to get to know kids in a new school. What is your club about anyway?

Charlotte: I'm so glad you asked. We are called The Commandment Kids because we are Christians and try to use the Ten Commandments to help us live each day.

Alvin: That's cool, but what are the Ten Commandments?

Geoffrey: Have you never been to church?

Alvin: No, we move around a lot, so my dad and I never get to go.

Frankie: Well, the Ten Commandments are God's laws or rules that help us to live the way God wants us to live. Did you know there is a commandment about how we are to talk?

Alvin: No, I didn't know that. What does it say?

Charlotte: Here, I have my Bible, it is in Exodus 20, verse 7. It says, "You will not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name." Do you know what that means?

Alvin: No. I've never heard that before.

T.J.: It means when you are happy or sad you should never just say God's name without a reason. God wants us to be careful and only use his name for good reasons, like when we talk to him or talk about him to someone else.

Chelsea: Sometimes we hear you say God's name in a not so good way, especially if you are angry or frustrated. We hear other people say it, but we as The Commandment Kids try not to say it in a disrespectful way.

Alvin: I guess I never knew that it was wrong to say God's name in a bad way. You're right that I hear it all of the time. My dad says it sometimes too. I'll try not to say it. Will you guys help me to not say it?

Frankie: Sure we will. That's what this club is for, to support all of us in living like Jesus wants us to.

Narrator: Over the next few days and weeks, Alvin made a really great effort not to misuse God's name. Every now and then it would slip out, but he was really trying. The Commandment Kids encouraged him each day and several even invited Alvin and his dad to church. Alvin seemed happier and really enjoyed hanging out with The Commandment Kids.

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