

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The Tender Commandments

Exodus 20:7

Ice Breaker: If you could be named any name other than your given one, what name would you choose? Why?

BACKGROUND: The Ten Commandments are more than a list of rules from some distant uncaring deity. They are loving direction from a Father's heart who has chosen us and set us free to live free.

THE BIG PICTURE: We should not take God's name in vain. This commandment is at the very heart of how we know God and how we present Him to others.

DIGGING DEEPER:

Think of someone's name. What name did you think of? What does it represent to you? Why? What is the significance of a name?

READ EXODUS 20:7. Why is this commandment in the top 10? Why is taking His name in vain such an important thing?

READ EXODUS 3:1-14. God reveals Himself to us as YHWH. Why is this so significant?

What does it mean to take His name in vain? What does the word "vain" literally mean? Why is it wrong to use His name in a meaningless, trivial way?

Why is HIS name chosen to be used profanely and not someone like Buddha?

Two ways we take HIS name in vain:

1. OUR SPEECH: Have you ever been guilty of using His name in vain? profanity • meaningless Christianese such as "It's Monday, praise the Lord!" • Lord have mercy • OMG • Geez • In Jesus' name — as a mantra at the end of a prayer to get God to do what we want

2. OUR ACTIONS i.e. hypocrisy: How can we make His name meaningless in our actions? What happens to your mindset when you change the word "take" in the commandment to "wear"? What does it look like to wear His name? How can we honor His name in our actions?

"For the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain." Why does this commandment carry such a strong warning? Why is it so important how we represent God to the world? Why wouldn't we believe there are consequences to the way we use His name?

READ JOHN 8:58-59. How does Jesus respond to the religious leaders when they ask Him, "Who are you, Jesus?"? Who is Jesus claiming to be? Why do we make such a big deal about Jesus' name? How should we respond to the name of Jesus? (See Acts 4:12 & Philippians 2:5-11)

CONCLUSION:

- How do you see God's love and grace in this commandment?
- How will this message make a difference in your life? How will you wear His name more rightly?