



Outward Group Discussion Guide

January 25, 2026 (Salem)

SUMMARY

This sermon provides a deep examination of the third commandment, "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain," revealing that it encompasses far more than avoiding profanity. The pastor explains that God's name represents His complete identity, character, nature, and attributes—including His holiness, justice, mercy, and grace. Taking God's name in vain includes false prophecy, idolatry, hypocrisy, using God for personal agendas, and living in ways inconsistent with His character. The sermon emphasizes that as image-bearers and particularly as Christians, believers represent God's family name in everything they do. However, the message concludes with hope: while everyone deserves judgment for profaning God's name, Jesus Christ has provided salvation through His death on the cross. Through faith in Jesus, believers are forgiven and empowered to live lives that truly honor and glorify God's name in every sphere of life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what ways might you be taking God's name in vain through your actions and lifestyle, beyond just using profanity?
2. How does understanding that God's name encompasses His entire character and identity change the way you think about the third commandment?
3. What idols in your life might be causing you to profane God's name, even if you attend church regularly and consider yourself a Christian?
4. How can you distinguish between genuine leading from God and using 'God told me' as a way to justify your own desires or avoid accountability?
5. In what areas of your life are you living hypocritically, claiming to belong to God while your actions suggest otherwise?
6. What does it mean practically to 'do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus' in your daily work, relationships, and decisions?

7. How does the reality that you bear God's family name as an image bearer affect your responsibility to represent Him well, even if you're not yet a Christian?
8. Why do you think people specifically use Jesus' name as a curse word rather than other religious figures, and what does this reveal about spiritual reality?
9. How does understanding the severity of God's judgment for misusing His name deepen your appreciation for the grace offered through Jesus Christ?
10. What would change in your life if you truly believed that every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord?