

TEACHING THE ELEVEN COMMANDMENTS
WHAT'S IN A NAME? A LOT?

look back

First, **LOOK BACK** at the past week by asking, "How did we do?" Begin with prayer, then check in with one another—sharing honestly, celebrating victories, acknowledging struggles, and graciously offering practical help.

PRAYER - Begin with prayer, inviting Jesus into the conversation.

Then discuss last week's assignment:

- What did you and your grandchild or NextGen loved one discover about God from Scripture?
- Did you notice any assumptions about God in your own life that needed to be challenged?
- How did looking to Scripture help you distinguish who God really is from who we might imagine Him to be?

look up

Next, **LOOK UP** to God's Word by asking, "What does Jesus want us to know?" If you haven't already, watch this week's video: *"What's In a Name? A lot."* Then use the summary, questions, and Scriptures below to draw out the main truths together.

WATCH: Episode 3: What's In a Name? A lot

Episode Summary

The Third Commandment means much more than avoiding certain words. To take God's name "in vain" is to treat His holy name as empty, hollow, or meaningless. We can do that by using His name carelessly, invoking His authority for our own purposes, or claiming to speak for Him when He has not spoken.

But at its heart, this commandment is about love. We naturally cherish the names of those we deeply love. As grandparents, we can teach our grandchildren to honor God's name not simply because it is a rule, but as a grateful response to His love for us.

We will treat His name as if it is the holiest name in all the universe, because it is.

HOW TO USE THESE RESOURCES

Whether you're studying on your own or with a group, each guide follows a simple yet powerful rhythm: **Look Back / Look Up / Look Forward.** For group leaders, additional instructions for leading a small group are included at the end of the first workbook in each series.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

God's commandments give us a moral compass for navigating a world where truth and values are increasingly up for grabs. This eleven-part series explores the Ten Commandments and Jesus' "new commandment" to love one another as He has loved us. More than a list of restrictions, God's commands reveal His character, show us our need for Jesus, and guide us in passing on His legacy of love to the next generations.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. How has your understanding of "taking the Lord's name in vain" changed as you've considered what the word vain actually means?
2. What does the way we use God's name reveal about our love and reverence for Him?
3. Where might Christians unintentionally use God's name to give greater authority to their own opinions or decisions?
4. How can you teach a grandchild to cherish God's name rather than simply giving them a list of words they shouldn't say?
5. What messages about God's name are your grandchildren hearing from friends, entertainment, social media, or the surrounding culture?

Episode Notes

1. God's name is holy.

- "Vain" means empty, hollow, or meaningless.
- God's name should never be treated as ordinary or meaningless.

2. We cherish the names of those we love.

- Love changes the way we speak about someone.
- Honoring God's name should flow from our love for Him.

3. Don't speak for God.

- Cursing and swearing can wrongly invoke God's authority.
- Claiming "God told me" can misuse His name to justify our own choices or manipulate others.

4. Teach reverence, not just rules.

- Taking God's name in vain is more than using bad language.
- Help your grandchildren understand why God's name deserves honor.

WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

KEY SCRIPTURE

Exodus 20:7 - "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name." God's name represents who He is. Treating His name carelessly, falsely claiming His authority, or using it for our own purposes diminishes something God has declared holy.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:9 - "This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.'" Jesus teaches us not merely to avoid misusing God's name, but to positively honor it as holy. That gives us a better way to teach the Third Commandment: help our grandchildren develop such love and reverence for God that honoring His name becomes natural.

look forward

Finally, **LOOK FORWARD** by asking, "What does Jesus want us to do?" Commit to practical steps for living out this week's lesson. Review the assignment, share commitments with the group, pray for one another, and move forward together in faith and hope.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Matthew 5:33–37
Ephesians 4:29
Deuteronomy 18:20–22

THIS EPISODE'S ASSIGNMENT

This week, ask your grandchild to think of someone they love, and then discuss how they might feel if someone used that person's name as a swear word or spoke disrespectfully about them? Use this as a springboard to dialogue about how we honor God's name because we love Him.

During the week, pay attention to your own speech as well. Notice whether you ever use God's name casually or claim His authority for something that may actually be your own opinion. Practice speaking about God with both reverence and humility.

PERSONAL GROWTH COMMITMENTS

- What has God laid on my heart?
- What is the Holy Spirit leading me to change?
- What will I do in my own life, in my relationships, and to reach NextGen loved ones?

SHARE WITH THE GROUP

Encourage sharing commitments, prayer needs, and real-life stories. Close in prayer, asking God to help you speak about Him with reverence and humility.