

Open:

- Thou shalt not... = It is important to understand that we realize this is not a recommendation or a request this is a command that is not to be broken, a line that is not to be crossed.
 - **ILL:** *The clearly defined laws of the land and the clearly defined rules of a parent are not to be broken; but to be followed or punishment will follow any infraction.*
 - God intended for His children to understand the simple instructions, clear and obvious line, and pointed commandment of using God’s name in vain.
- Take... = To seize, capture, or to bring into captivity; To use in the authority of.
 - **ILL:** *Slavery – forcing someone to do things against their will without compensation.*
 - **ILL:** *Impersonation of an officer or to assume the authority of another’s position*
 - **ILL:** *To forge a signature on a legal document.*
- The name... = His name is not to just be known as the highest name, but it is to be regarded as such. There is to be no misunderstanding, His name is not to be mistreated or misused.
 - **ILL:** *As a child, if someone bad-mouthed your parents or attempted to drag your family’s name or character through the mud, “Them was fightin’ words”.*
 - The authority of the Godhead is not in name only; but proven by His actions. **Phil. 2:8-11** *“And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. [9] Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: [10] That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; [11] And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*
 - **Ps. 136:4-26**
 - God’s name is not only worthy of our respect, but it also demands our respect. **Ps. 8:1-3,9** *“O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. [2] Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger. [3] When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; [9] O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!*
 - God and His position rightfully assume the respect that is demanded of His name. **Ps. 89:6-7** *“For who in the heaven can be compared unto the LORD? who among the sons of the mighty can be likened unto the LORD? [7] God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.*
 - His name **ALONE** is excellent. **Ps. 148:10-13** *“Beasts, and all cattle; creeping things, and flying fowl: [11] Kings of the earth, and all people; princes, and all judges of the earth: [12] Both young men, and*

maidens; old men, and children: [13] Let them praise the name of the LORD: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven.”

- **In vain** = To misuse for personal gain, glory, or recognition.
 - ***ILL:*** *To use marketing techniques for a product. Many sport companies will sponsor a particular athlete or venue to try to bring recognition to their product.*
 - The title Christian is to be used with discretion and understood that it is not to be just a name, but a public example of who Christ is. **Gen 19:12** *“And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law.”*
 - Lot claimed to know God, but didn’t live like it. When the time came for his message to be heard it was mocked. Lot used his connection to Abraham and God as an avenue for personal benefit. **God’s name is not be used as a marketing tool.**
 - The name of God, the church, or the title Christian should not be used to bring greater gain to an individual or a church. **Matt. 15:7** *“Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.”*
 - Many religious entities and religious leaders were taking Bible doctrine and twisting it to gain both man’s accolades and money.
 - God alone is to receive the glory. God’s name has been “marketed” if afterwards people are drawn to an individual or an institution instead of God. **Titus 1:10-11** *“For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: [11] Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre’s sake.”*
 - Very few are bold enough to break into a church and rob it. (Even though there are those who justify in their own mind the robbing of God. **Malachi 3:8-9**)
 - Sadly, many who would critique those who would break into a church or rob God, will be guilty of using their title of *Christian* to be the reason attention is drawn away from God.
- **Not hold guiltless** = Punishment will be carried out. Judgment will not be appeased.
 - Understand that God will not strike you dead because someone gives you a pat on the back or recognizes you as a Christian; but one must be very careful to not take away the credit that God so rightly deserves.
 - Be sure to not use your title as Christian for personal glory or to bring honor to yourself.
 - Be cautious not to use your position to persuade individuals to believing and acting against what the Bible really teaches.
 - Be careful to not allow man’s tradition to dictate how man perceives and obeys God’s truth
 - **Let’s close the lesson by looking at 3 examples of *Taking God’s Name in Vain***

I. Cursing with God’s name.

- A. This is the obvious one that needs very little, if any, illustrations or examples.

- B. Take this time to warn your class not only about creating a habit of cursing but falling into the trap of using words that man has chosen to use a replacement (word) for cursing.

II. Using God's name as an excuse to do wrong.

- **Rom. 6:1-2** *“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? [2] God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?”*
- A. Just because I am a child of God and can never lose my salvation, does not give me an excuse to say whatever I want or live however I want.
- B. Individuals need to be cautious not to claim *“I think this is the will of God”* to attempt to justify their actions to themselves or others.
- C. *“It is never right to do wrong, in order, to get a chance to do right”* or *“Two wrongs do not make a right.”*

III. To us his name for personal gain.

- A. I am not to obey God with the intentions of stopping the obedience once I have been blessed.
- Ex. 34:12-15** *“Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee: [13] But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves: [14] For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God: [15] Lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go a whoring after their gods, and do sacrifice unto their gods, and one call thee, and thou eat of his sacrifice;”*
- B. I am not to be the public example of a Christian that only man will see. I am to be a genuine Christian both publicly and privately. **Matt. 6:1-5**

Close:

- Have you created a bad habit of verbally taking God's name in vain?
- Have you been living your life as a Christian fraudulently, using God's name to bring personal benefit?

The 10 Commandments

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| 1. Thou Shalt have no other gods before me. | 6. Thou shalt not kill. |
| 2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image. | 7. Thou shalt not commit adultery. |
| 3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. | 8. Thou shalt not steal. |
| 4. Remember the Sabbath. | 9. Thou shalt not bear false witness. |
| 5. Honour thy father and thy mother. | 10. Thou shalt not covet. |