



Navigate: Ten Commandments Series
Small Group & House Church Bible Study

Commandment 3 – “You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God”

Pray and ask God to speak to your group as you open the Bible together. Read Exodus 20:7.

1. The commandment of “not misusing the name of the Lord your God” has multiple applications. The first one we usually think of is not using God’s name as a swear word. This is important, but it goes further than that. Sometimes as Christians we can use religious language flippantly and use it to manipulate other people. For instance, a person might suggest that God has said something in order to get their way. We can also use religious language to puff ourselves up and present ourselves in an inauthentic way to those around us. How have you seen this at play? Why is it hurtful and dangerous?
2. Read Jesus words in Matthew 7:21-23. What do you think Jesus is getting at?
3. At times in trying to gain acceptance in Christian circles we might embrace a certain degree of religiosity. The problem is that religious actions do not always equate with true faith. Religiosity can mean that we are playing the part, looking the part, and saying the right things, but they are not truly representative of where our hearts are at. This is a form of taking the Lord’s name in vain with our lives. Living out our walk with God (with both the ups and downs) in an authentic way is the opposite of this! What do you do to stay real in your faith? How do you cultivate an authentic relationship with God and other believers?
4. All of the commandments are Good News and designed by God to lead to human flourishing. How does honoring the Name of God through word and deed push aside our egos and replace them with God’s presence? How does this free us to use our gifts to the fullest in God’s Kingdom?

As a group pray together thanking God for His commandments. Ask God for the grace to honor His Holy name through word and deed.