

Lesson 11

Respect God's Name

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Matthew 26:69-75

MEMORY VERSE: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name.
Psalm 103:1

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. Colossians 3:17

CATECHISM:

The Second Commandment:

Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His Name in vain. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, conjure, lie, or deceive, by His Name, but call upon Him in every time of need, and worship Him with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

The student will:

- understand how we misuse or dishonor God's Name.
- be encouraged to speak the truth.

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets, have memory verse(s) written on the board

LESSON OVERVIEW: The 2nd Commandment tells us not to take God's name in vain or use God's name in wrong ways. Cursing, swearing, lying, deceiving, or conjuring are some ways to dishonor His name. The disciple Peter did this when he cursed and swore, lying when he said he didn't know Jesus. When he realized he had sinned, Peter was very sorry. He cried. He was sorry for what he had done. He needed to ask Jesus to forgive him. Jesus came to Peter a few days later. Jesus forgave Peter.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: 1) What is a person asking for when they curse? 2) What does it mean to use God's name in wrong ways? 3) Peter was a disciple of Jesus yet he did not honor God's name, how did he do this? 4) What happened when he realized what he had done? 3) When you have lied or used God's name carelessly, what can you do?

ACTIVITY 1: Label each phrase with M for ways we misuse God's name. Use R for ways we respect it.

ACTIVITY 2: Number the sentences to retell the story in the correct order, answer a personal thought question and then fill in the blanks on the memory verse.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Pray that the students will understand the importance of respect and honor of God's name. That even in our world where disrespect for God's name is blatant and part of many conversations and honesty is not valued we can still honor God's name.

Prayer Preparation

- Pray that each child will grow to understand the 2nd Commandment.
- Pray for each child's home, and that each child will receive a Godly influence outside of the church.
- Pray that God will use you in teaching these little children.

Bible Background

Bible Study Matthew 26:69-75

People are often unaware of the relationship between God and His Name. A person can claim to love and respect God, but think nothing of cursing, swearing, or using God's name carelessly or in vain. It's common today for God's name to be disrespected or ridiculed.

Why? For many, it is because they do not know God. Or maybe the beauty, holiness, and purity of God make people uncomfortable and they are unwilling to face the truth.

Our culture has lost reverence for God. It may have begun with a low view of scripture and a corresponding high view of ourselves.

Cursing and swearing are problems of the tongue or speech. Read James 3:1-10. Even Christians can struggle with this sin.

Matthew 26:69-75 Peter's Words

The decline and fall of man with regards to the mouth is seen in the case of Peter in the courtyard at the trial of Jesus. Peter had sneaked in to watch, even though Jesus had already told the disciple what to expect.

Peter may have thought no one would notice him, but he was in a dangerous place, the wrong place. Three times Peter was given an opportunity to confess or deny Jesus.

1. A maid saw Peter and said, "You were with Jesus." Peter denied it, saying, "I don't know what you're talking about!" Peter was exposed and withdrew to the gateway to get away from the crowd. He was afraid and panicked. Peter was unable to confess his Lord.
2. Another maidservant saw him and accused him of being with Jesus. He denied it again and, maybe feeling like this denial needed to be stronger than the first, he swears it by an oath as if he were in court. Peter swore he didn't even know Jesus.
3. Peter is still not believed. The crowd is accusing him and he was even more afraid. Peter is now in big trouble. He begins to swear, calling evil down on himself if he isn't telling the truth (and he knows very well he isn't telling the truth). He is desperate to protect himself. Peter is acting like a pitiful coward, doing whatever he can to protect himself.

At this point, Jesus looks on Peter with pity (Luke 22:61). A rooster crows and Peter remembers that Jesus had said he would deny him. Peter was convicted of his sin of denying Jesus with a curse. That conviction led to repentance, forgiveness and maybe a deep sense of humility that was new to Peter. Peter was very sorry and wept bitterly. When this kind of contrition is present, God is faithful to forgive our sins and cleanse us from unrighteousness (see 1 John 1:9).

Learn the New Words

It is okay to explain the new words in the beginning or as you encounter them.

curse: speak offensive words in anger or disgust; or a wish that a spoken asking for something bad to happen to something or someone

swear: to use words that dishonor God; such as curse words; or to make a promise or oath using God's name

courtroom: a place where legal cases are tried and lawyers defend people accused of breaking the law

honest: sincere, real, truthful

truthful: telling the truth

lied: said something that was not true

denied to refuse to admit or confess something

carelessly: not carefully; without thought of others

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive. Let them know you're glad to see them today..

Open the class with prayer. Thank God for His special name. Ask Him to help us use it to love and respect Him. Give the children an opportunity to pray if they want to.

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read it clearly,

“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. *Psalm 103:1*”

Be sure to read it together aloud. Remind the children you'll repeat the verse again at the end.

Review the Recent Lessons

Remember we have been learning about the Second Commandment, which teaches us to use God's name with love and respect. Remind them that Jesus said we could call God “Our Father and that there are many names for God. How can we honor God's name? Praise Him, pray to Him, thank Him for what He does for us, when we talk about God say only things that are true about Him.

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

We have learned that God wants us to honor His name by praying, singing, and telling others about Jesus. The 2nd Commandment also tells us some things we should not do.

Read the Lesson

Teacher read the first three paragraphs. This is a good time to ask some of the suggested questions. 1) **What is a person asking for when they curse?** *They are asking for something bad to happen to someone* 2) **What does it mean to use God's name in wrong ways?** *To call upon God to support lies or wrongdoing/wickedness.*

SAY: When people go to court, they promise to tell the truth. They say words that ask God to help them tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. This is called swearing and this kind of swearing is not wrong as long as the person is telling the truth. Sometimes people swear using God's name when they are not in court. That is different and does not please God. (Do not give examples of swearing or do anything to encourage the children to do so.)

Let's look back at the meaning of the Second Commandment, notice we haven't talked about the words conjure and deceive. *Questions #47 and #48 in Luther's Small Catechism in the Explanation section talk about the words: conjure and deceive. Conjuring is another way to take God's name in vain. Ouija boards, witches, casting spells and watching people do that in entertainment should be avoided. Turn off the TV. Don't read the book. Don't play around with séances.*

Swearing to tell the truth, but lying anyway is taking the Lord's name in vain. Pretending to be better or nicer than you are, or pretending to believe or agree with something when you don't—this is deceiving and God says not to do that either.

Tell the story about Peter denying Jesus or read it from Matthew 26:69-75. Or, you can ask

for the children to volunteer to read the next two paragraphs.

Remind the students that cursing or swearing when telling a lie is sin. Emphasize that Jesus will forgive us when we ask Him to (refer to the Bible Study as needed).

SAY: In the Second Commandment and its meaning, we learn not to use the Lord's name in vain, or without meaning it. Let's say the Second Commandment together. SAY: Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, conjure, lie, or deceive, by His Name, but call upon Him in every time of need, and worship Him with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

Discussion

Ask the children to imagine one of the children at the playground swears by using God's Name in a bad way. Ask how they would respond. Listen to their answers and guide the discussion to these ideas:

- The Bible says it is wrong to swear.
- God doesn't want us to say bad words.
- We should pray for that child.
- We should ask God to help us tell them about Jesus.
- God wants us to love that person because God loves him.

Repeat the Memory Verse

"Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. *Psalm 103:1*"

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

Respect or Misuse?

Activity 1

Label each phrase with M for ways we misuse God's name. Use R for ways we respect it.

Activity 1
RESPECT OR MISUSE?
Read the Second Commandment and its meaning. Then label each phrase below. Use M for ways we misuse God's name. Use R for ways we respect God's name.

ACTIVITY CENTER

- 1 Hide the truth **M**
- 2 Keep a promise **R**
- 3 Lie to my friend **M**
- 4 Tell the truth **R**
- 5 Use God's name carelessly **M**
- 6 Be honest and truthful **R**
- 7 Deceive my parents **M**

CATECHISM
The Second Commandment:
Thou shalt not take the Name of the LORD thy God in vain: for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh His Name in vain.

What does this mean?
We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, conjure, lie, or deceive, by His Name, but call upon Him in every time of need, and worship Him with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

What Happened?

Activity 2

Number the sentences to retell the story in the correct order, answer a personal thought question and then fill in the blanks on the memory verse.

Activity 2
WHAT HAPPENED?
Number the sentences in the correct order from 1 to 9. Then retell the story by reading the sentences in order.

- 8 Jesus came to Peter and talked with him.
- 4 Peter heard a rooster crow and remembered what Jesus had told him.
- 9 Peter learned Jesus had forgiven him.
- 3 Peter was afraid and lied three times.
- 5 Peter realized he had sinned.
- 1 Peter lied and said he did not know Jesus.
- 6 Peter went away and cried and was sorry for his sin.
- 2 Peter cursed and swore when someone asked him if he had been with Jesus.
- 7 Peter knew he needed to ask Jesus to forgive him.

When you have lied or used God's name carelessly, what can you do?
ask for forgiveness

Talk about some of the good and holy ways we can use God's name. Then write the missing words from the memory verse to discover one more.

Bless _____ the LORD _____, O my _____ soul _____,
and _____ all _____ that is within me, _____ bless _____ His holy name.
Psalm _____ 103:1

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CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

Additional Teaching Options

Hymns and Songs:

Additional activities for a multi-age class: