

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: To win, build and send Department of Defense leaders to live for Jesus Christ

Ten Commandments for the 21st Century

Jan 2013

LESSON # 4 – DON'T MISUSE THE NAME OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

Why do you think that the misuse of His name is so important that it is one of the foundational commandments?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Exodus 20:7

1. What does it mean to misuse the name of God?
2. Why do you think the punishment described is unspecific?
3. How can we blaspheme God by the way we live?
4. Your best friend will become a new commander. In his acceptance speech he's considering declaring his allegiance to Christ (using *His* name). What advice would you give him?
5. How might the second part of this verse be a warning to those in the Christian community that imply allegiance to God but their activities and policies don't line up with God's Word? Matt 18:6

Read Matt 5:21-22

Note: In Arabic, "raca" is a word of contempt. To call someone "raca" means that you have judged them as worthless, like trash, to be discarded or thrown out. Jesus makes it clear that condemning someone else places us in danger of judgment ourselves. It is not our place to condemn anyone's soul.

6. What does Jesus say about using harsh words to someone?
7. What power do words have on people? Ja 3:5 Why?
8. How can a Christian speak the truth and not be inappropriately judgmental? Eph 4:15

Read Gen 17:1; Gen 22:8; Ps 4:1; Ex 3:13-15

9. Various renderings of His name show a different facet of God's character. What is the value of knowing different names of God? Ps 34:3
10. Some people trust in stock markets & investments, science and medicine, people (like bosses, politicians & clergy). What are some of the benefits of trusting in the name of God as an individual? As a nation?

APPLICATION

- How can you honor God's name this week? (i.e. study the different names of God).
- When do you think that it's appropriate to confront someone about their abuse of God's name? Who do you need to consider confronting?

"You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name."¹

¹ *The Holy Bible: New International Version*. 1984 (Ex 20:7). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.