

# The Second Commandment



## Introduction

Do you have more than one name? Many of us do: first name, last name, middle name, nickname(s). God has more than one name too. In the Bible, God is called Lord, Jesus Christ, Father, Holy Spirit, and many more names. Today we'll be studying God's Word to see how God wants us to use his names and his Word.

Opening Prayer: Heavenly Father, I have indeed transgressed your commandments. I have been impatient in trials. I am unsympathetic and unmerciful. I do not help my neighbor. I am unable to resist sin. I do not tire of doing wrong. Dear Lord, pour out your grace on me and give me your Holy Spirit to help me to avoid using your name like it's a meaningless expletive, or like being able to approach you is unspecial or insignificant. Help me to use your name with awe, honor, and appreciation. Amen.

**Lesson Aim:** How does God want us to use his name?

## Part One

Read Exodus 20:7.

1) What is the Second Commandment?

Read Exodus 3:1-15.

2) What strange thing happened while Moses was just doing his job as a shepherd?

3) What does God tell Moses to do?

4) How does Moses respond?

5) What assurance does God then give Moses?

6) What is God's name? That's something that we are trying to learn in this lesson. Moses wanted to know the answer to that question too. What answer does God give Moses? What does God say he wants to be called and known as?

Read Exodus 34:4-7. In this section, Moses is receiving the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments (again).

7) What does God proclaim his name to be in this section?

8) From what is mentioned here and from what you know, how would you describe God?

9) List as many names for God as you can think of.

**KEY POINT 1** - God's name includes his titles, his reputation, and everything his Word tells us about him.

**What I've learned so far:**

## Part Two

Read Matthew 26:69-75. Earlier on this same night, Jesus and Peter had this conversation; Peter said, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will." "Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the other disciples said the same.—Matthew 26:33-35  
Now Jesus has been arrested and is on trial before the high priest. The 12 disciples have scattered, but Peter watched Jesus from a distance in the courtyard at the high priest's house.

- 1) What claim did the young girl make about Peter?
- 2) Was that claim true?
- 3) How did Peter respond?
- 4) How many times did Peter reply this way?
- 5) In addition to stating his denial of God, what else are we told Peter did the second and third times he gave this lie?
- 6) How did Peter break the Second Commandment in this account?

Read Luke 17:11-19.

- 7) What problem did the ten men in this story face?
- 8) How did these men all use God's name properly?
- 9) What did Jesus do for them?
- 10) How did nine of the men fail to use God's name properly?
- 11) What does this story teach us about the use of God's name?

Read Leviticus 19:12.

- 12) What kind of swearing does the Second Commandment forbid?
- 13) What is swearing falsely?

14) Why is this sinful?

15) How and when should God's name not be used?

Read Psalm 50:15.

16) How and when should God's name be used?

**KEY POINT 1** - God tells us not to misuse his name because he revealed it to us only to bless and save us.

**What I've learned so far:**

## Part Three

Study questions 41-52 in the Catechism and answer the following questions in your own words.

1) What is God's name?

2) For what two reasons did God reveal his name to us?

3) Keeping in mind the two reasons why God gave us his name, why is misusing it such a terrible shame?

4) The Catechism points out that witchcraft is also a sin. Is there any witchcraft active in the world today? And if so, why would we as Christians want to be completely cautious to avoid it?

5) List some of the sins against the Second Commandment that you have been guilty of doing.

6) In thanks to God for sending Jesus to rescue us from our sins against the Second Commandment, how does this commandment also guide us in living the kind of life God wants us to live?

### Helpful Passages

Deuteronomy 4:2 and Revelation 22:18-19

All of God's Word represents him and is protected by the Second Commandment. Why should we be so careful to not misuse it?

Jeremiah 14:14—Some churches teach things about God that just are not true, but they tell people that what they teach is what God says in the Bible. It's a lie, a sin, and a shame. Watch out for them.

Romans 10:13—We use God's name properly not only when we praise him, but when we lead others to as well—and it's very important that we do both.

Psalm 103—This psalm is a great example of keeping the Second Commandment.

Matthew 5:33-37

What simple, practical, and yet awesome advice does Jesus give here?

**Main point — God wants us to remember that his name is important and to use it to honor him by calling upon him in any trouble, praying to him, praising him to others, and giving thanks to him.**

Final considerations:



Agree or Disagree

- 1) \_\_\_ It is sinful to pray to anyone or anything other than the Triune God.
- 2) \_\_\_ Blasphemy should still be punishable by death as it was in Jesus' day.
- 3) \_\_\_ Once we understand what misusing God's name is, this is a fairly easy commandment to obey.
- 4) \_\_\_ We should regard God's name so highly that we should never say it aloud out of fear of misusing it as the Jews did.
  
- 5) God's name is \_\_\_ .
  - A. either Yahweh or Jehovah.
  - B. really a mystery to us. The Bible uses so many names for God that we don't know which is proper.
  - C. every word that stands for God's person, essence, or reputation.
  
- 6) God's name is not to be used \_\_\_ .
  - A. for any other purposes except prayer. This will guard against misusing it.
  - B. in vain, that is, used needlessly, unnecessarily, incorrectly, falsely, or for an evil purpose.
  - C. at all, at least not by sinners like us.
  
- 7) We use God's name rightly when we \_\_\_ .
  - A. come to know all the different names God has and what he teaches us with each one.
  - B. tell others that about him and what he has done for us.
  - C. call upon him in every trouble, to pray, praise, and give thanks.
  
- 8) What do you think it means when the Bible tells us that God is a jealous God?
  
- 9) What are appropriate times to make oaths, swear, or even curse?
  
- 10) What's the difference between cursing, swearing and using profanity?
  
- 11) Is there any commandment more diluted in our society than this one? Why or why not?
  
- 12) What petition of the Lord's Prayer asks God to help us keep this commandment?
  
- 13) Be ready to discuss sinful habits of misusing God's name.

**What I've learned:**

**Commit to Memory:**

- The Second Commandment with Luther's explanation.
- The Ten Commandments—Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5