

Discussion Questions: Living in Freedom
3rd Commandment: Respect God's Name – Exodus 3:7-15 & 20:7

Drawn from the January 19, 2025 sermon by Dr. Jeff Chandler

Opener: What is something that God has done in your life recently that you have told others about?

Open your Bible and Read Exodus 3:7-15.

1. How does this passage set the stage for valuing God's name?

2. What do you observe about God's character and compassion?

Read the third commandment found Exodus 20:7

"You must not misuse the name of the LORD your God. The LORD will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name."

3. How closely do you guard your "good name" in the community? Have you ever made a conscious effort to find out or correct what others are saying about you?

4. Have you ever found yourself defending God's honor or reputation? If so, explain.

5. Besides swearing or using trite expressions, we can also subtly misuse God's name by attributing things to him that are trivial or false and by using spiritual language when it's not authentic but is trying to impress. Have you ever fallen into any of these blatant or more subtle forms of misuse? What did it tell you about your attitude toward God at the time?

I didn't feel led to go out and help that person today

God told me what is wrong with you

I've prayed about this and God wants us to buy this _____

In Exodus 34:5-7, God passed in front of Moses revealing his name.

⁵ Then the LORD came down in a cloud and stood there with him; and he called out his own name, Yahweh. ⁶ The LORD passed in front of Moses, calling out,

"Yahweh! The LORD!

The God of compassion and mercy!

I am slow to anger

and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness.

⁷ I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations.

I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin.

But I do not excuse the guilty.

*I lay the sins of the parents upon their children and grandchildren;
the entire family is affected—*

even children in the third and fourth generations."

6. Is there any new insight you learn about God from this expanded definition of his name? Is any of it surprising to you?

7. There are many ways to properly use the name of God. Which of these would you like to focus on this week, or do you have some additional ideas?

We are able to ask for our provision in his name and he will hear us

We may enter into praise and worship by blessing his name.

We can use words to describe our God and his provision for us

Group Prayer Time: Pray for one another that you will continue to go deeper with God, remember to honor his name, and experience his blessings in your lives. Pray also for any needs people are facing in this time.

For personal reflection in the group or on your own:

A name represents three things: reputation, character, and authority

When someone has a good reputation we say they have a “good name”.

In the Bible children were often named after certain character qualities, and at times God would change people’s names to reflect a new beginning. Abraham means “father of a multitude”, Peter meant “Rock”. Finally in terms of authority – a name can signify power and status. When we pray in “the name of Jesus”, it is because he has the authority to accomplish what he has promised.

Back in the last session, God was ready to destroy the Israelites for making a golden calf. Moses responded by reminding God about his reputation among the unbelieving Egyptians if he followed through. He appealed to God’s reputation, character and authority.

"O LORD," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring

*disaster on your people. ¹³ Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.' "*¹⁴ *Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened. Exodus 32:11-14 NIV.*

God wants us to look long and hard at our habits as well as our attitudes. How well are we respecting God's reputation, character and authority in what we think and what we say?

Next week, January 26th , pastor Jeff will cover "Making the sabbath day holy" and there will be discussion questions available in "Downloads" on the SCC website.