

Dgroup Discussion Guide for March 4, 2017

God is # 1

Scripture: **EXODUS 20 : 1- 5**

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain [that is, irreverently, in false affirmations or in ways that impugn the character of God]; for the Lord will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain [disregarding its reverence and its power]. Exodus 20:7

Names are important, because they carry a certain weight behind their meanings. This is especially true for the Lord. His name represents His character. Unlike parents who have the authority to name their children, we cannot give our God any other name because He Himself—the highest authority—revealed Himself to us. Exodus 3:14 says, ***God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM;” and He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”*** God’s name represents all that He is, so it is not something to be taken lightly. Habakuk 1:11 says, ***“For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be offered to My name, and a grain offering that is pure; for My name will be great among the nations,” says the Lord of hosts.***

Common ways that we use God’s name in vain:

1. *Insignificant purpose*

These are times when we use the name of the Lord flippantly, lightly or carelessly; or, when we use His name to curse. Matthew 12:36-37 says, ***But I tell you that very careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.*** God’s name is holy and perfect, so we cannot just take His name in vain.

2. *Personal motives*

Leviticus 19:12 says, ***“You shall not swear falsely by My name, so as to profane the name of your God; I am the Lord.”*** In addition to rash swearing, we sometimes mention God’s name or attributes in the form of an oath, without any just occasion for it, or to no good purpose. We also take His name in vain when we make promises to Him—and others—and fail to follow through, or use the name to manipulate people. Matthew 5:33-34 and 37 says, ***“Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, ‘You shall not make false vows, but shall fulfill your vows to the Lord.’ But I say to you, make no oath at all ... but let your statement be, ‘Yes, yes’ or ‘No no’; anything beyond these is of evil.”***

3. *Misrepresenting God*

When we call ourselves Christians, we profess the name of the Lord in our lives; but, we take His name in vain when we do not live up to that profession. 2 Corinthians 3:20 says, ***Therefore, we are***

ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. We represent Christ wherever we are, whether it be in the workplace, in school, or at home, so we must be careful to represent Him well.

So what are we supposed to do?

1. *Revere God's name*

We revere God's name by worshipping Him. Worship is our response to God's holiness.

2. *Represent Him*

We carry the name of Christ, so we must act accordingly. Matthew 5:16 says, ***Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father, which is in heaven.***

The law wasn't given to save us. Note that the Israelites had already been taken out of bondage before God gave them the Ten Commandments. Instead, they were given as a guideline on how we should be living as God's people. The perfect law was given by our perfect God out of His perfect love for us.

APPLICATION:

Patiently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage's lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

1. Who is God to you?
2. How have you been guilty of using God's name in vain?
3. Does your life reflect God's name?
4. How can I better revere God's name?

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.