

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 2 • Unit 4 • Week 3

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

OBJECTIVE:

To illustrate the foolishness of taking God's name in vain and the importance of showing true respect for our Creator.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Say: Today we are going to show how foolish it is to take God's—or anybody's—name in vain.

Ask: Have you ever noticed how some people will say God's or Jesus' name anytime they are startled, amazed, hurt, angry or upset?

Ask: May I have a volunteer? I would like to borrow your name for a little while.

Do: Substitute the name of the volunteer for the name underlined in each of the sentences below.

Say: See if what I'm going to say makes any sense to you:

Oh Samantha! My head hurts.

Samantha Jones! I forgot my homework!

Oh my Jones, it's hot outside!

What in Samantha's name are you doing?

Jones Almighty, what is that smell?

Samantha Jones, why did Mom wake me up so early?

In the name of Jones I didn't do it!

Jones blankety-blank-blank! I lost my wallet!

BIBLE LESSON:

Ask: Samantha, how did it feel when we were saying your name like that for no good reason? Does

it make any sense to use someone's name in a comment that has nothing to do with that person?

Say: It is sort of silly to yell Samantha's name when you stub your toe. But when people use God's or Jesus' name in such a way, it's not only silly but it's also very disrespectful. It is called taking God's name in vain.

Ask: Is there a commandment about taking God's name in vain?

Say: Yes, the Third Commandment says that we should not misuse God's name. It says that God does not take it lightly. In fact, in the third book of the Bible—Leviticus, chapter 24 and beginning in verse 10—there was a man who cursed God, or used hateful words along with God's name. Using God's name in this way is called blaspheming God.

Ask: Do you know what happened to that man?

Say: The man was stoned to death for blaspheming God. This was how they dealt with very difficult people in the camp of Israel. Because of Christ's sacrifice, we now are able to be forgiven when we repent after we've done something wrong. We do not stone people now as they did at that time. But this example shows that God takes it very seriously when someone uses His name in a wrong way.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Say: We've talked about how NOT to use God's or Jesus' name.

Ask: Does anyone know how God DOES want us to use His name?

Say: Right. God wants us to speak in a way that will honor Him.

Ask: What IS a good use of God's name—which will make Him happy?

Say: Praising God is how we show that we appreciate Him and all that He gives us. We can praise Him in prayer. We can praise Him in song. David, the person the Bible calls "a man after God's own heart," wrote poetry that he put to music—called psalms.

Ask: Have you ever written a poem? Today we are going to use rhyming words to write a poem of praise.

Do: Make copies made of the following fill-in-the-blank poem. Cover up the teacher's guide before copying the hand-outs. Help the children with any words they have trouble with.)

Praising God's Name!

I think that God is very grand
For all the good things He has _____.

I'm thankful for the sky so blue
And for the earth beneath it _____.

For us to breathe, He made clean air
And gives nice clothes for us to _____.

He made good things for us to eat—
Some food is salty and some is _____.

With family I'm not alone
And God provides the things we _____.

He helps me out when things get tough,
I cannot praise my God _____.

(Words to choose from: too enough wear own sweet planned)

Teacher's guide:

planned

too

wear

sweet

own

enough

Music:

Sing "Our God Is an Awesome God." For variation, divide the class roughly in half and have each part of the class sing a different verse (in unison.) This would have a similar effect to singing in a round.

Our God is an awesome God.
He reigns from heaven above.
He rules with power and might.
Our God is an awesome God.

God's name is an awesome name.
We won't take His name in vain.
We use it when we pray.
God's name is an awesome name.

MEMORY VERSE:

Exodus 20:7 "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain."

family activity

THE POINT:

Taking God's name in vain is foolish and disrespectful. Instead, we should show respect for our Creator. Let's work on being respectful in using God's name.

ASK ME...

What is the Third Commandment?

What are two ways in which God's name is sometimes taken in vain?

Give some ways of using God's name that please Him.

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Discuss ways that people take God's name in vain. Have each family member count the number of times that they hear His name misused in a given time period—say a couple of days. Then meet again and compare the results.

Talk about better ways to use God's name. Explain that many people do not know any better and it is not the child's job to confront or to change them.

MEMORY VERSE:

Exodus 20:7 "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that takes His name in vain."