



X-3: REVERENCE

Here are some ideas on how to start your evening off. Pick any of the following:

- Ask a discipleship question (e.g. Who are you intentionally building up in the faith?)
- Ask a question about how they are living on mission (e.g. When was the last time you shared the gospel with someone?)
- Share evidences of God's grace (There are different ways to pose this. e.g. Share how you have seen Fruit of the Spirit growth in each other)
- Invite 1-2 individuals to share their faith story (e.g. life before Jesus, encountering Jesus, how Jesus has changed them, what Jesus is doing in their life lately)

OPENING COMMENT

When we hear that we should not take the Lord's name in vain (3rd Commandment), we typically think of blasphemous language. And that's right. But it's also about so much more. Our words reflect our hearts after all.

READ THE TEXT: 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.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you know what your name means, share it with the group.
2. Why is it important to recognize that for us a name is something we have but in the Bible a name is something you are? What does that say about the name(s) of God?
3. What are some ways that God's name is misused in the world today?
4. What are some ways that Christians misuse it?



5. Read Matthew 15:18-19 and Luke 6:45. What do our words reveal?
6. Read Acts 19:11-20. What did the seven sons of Sceva do wrong? How did this event end up spreading the gospel?
7. What is significant about the fact that we bear the name of Christ as *Christians*? How does this reality inform our view of Christian witness?
8. Dwell on the beauty of the gospel and share with each other. If these truths are on our hearts and transforming our lives, what effect will that have on us in regard to the 3rd Commandment?

CONCLUSION

The harsh reality is that we have not kept the Third Commandment perfectly. And the command ends with a warning of judgement. But praise Jesus that He bore the punishment we justly deserve. He *bore the cross for us* and it is our great privilege to *bear the name of Christ as Christians* as grateful recipients of His grace.

SHARE & PRAY

- Pray in response to the Word you've studied and the things it caused you to share with each other about.
- Take some time to thank God for what He's been doing in your lives.
- Conclude by spending some time praying for one another, the growth in grace you want to experience, and the needs among you.

