The Ten Commandments

FOUNDATIONS IN FAITH
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# Leaders Notes

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THE SECOND AND THIRD COMMANDMENTS

Pray Together
You are my God.
You never let me out of Your sight.
Even when I strike out on my own,
You pursue me and hold on to me.
Thank You for taking me back, Lord,
for renewing my relationship with You.
I seek now to walk in Your course for me.
I shall proclaim Your praises and live out Your purposes.
Enable me to be faithful to You, whatever the consequences,
and to celebrate Your love
and communicate it to everyone around me. Amen.

Discover
God’s name and Word are holy. In the Ten Commandments,
God forbids us to misuse His name or despise His Word. In Christ,
our heavenly Father forgives our sins and helps us to pray and
worship as His chosen people.

Introduction
An ancient proverb suggests, “Speaking is a mirror of the soul;
as we speak, so we are.”
• Describe how what we say reveals who we are.

• In what ways does what we see and read shape who we are?
The Catechism

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

God’s name is good. God’s name is holy. God’s name reveals His identity, His nature, and His attributes.

Rudolph Norden writes in *Day by Day with Jesus*,

Names are important. God has revealed Himself to us by name, not by number. His name is Yahweh, the Lord, the Almighty, God Most High, or, with reference to the Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God’s name is not just a word tacked on, but it is God Himself as He has revealed Himself. . . . God’s name describes God as He is. (p. 177)

The Second Commandment shows that God’s name is important: God wants us to use—to speak—His name as He has commanded in His Word.

1. In what ways do people misuse God’s name today?

2. When have you called on God’s name in trouble? in praise and thanksgiving?

3. *Jesus* means “Savior.” How does knowing Jesus as Savior encourage you to call on God’s name in your need?

God’s Word

Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the
midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.” When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then He said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” And He said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, “I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings. . . .

“Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” He said, “But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is His name?’ what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ” (Exodus 3:1–7, 10–14)

4. What does God reveal about Himself in the burning bush? in the name “I am who I am”?

5. How does Moses recognize that he is unworthy to stand before God? that he is completely dependent on God’s mercy?

6. How does God’s promise encourage you in the tasks you have?
God’s name is holy. We misuse His name when we speak it uselessly or carelessly, and when we
curse—speak evil of God or mock Him;
swear—speak an oath falsely, thoughtlessly, or in trivial matters;
use satanic arts—speak God’s name in occult practices (fortune-telling, astrology, magic, etc.);
lie or deceive by His name—speak God’s name in false teaching or hypocritically.
Though we have sinned against God in our speaking, thinking, and doing, He offers His rich forgiveness in Christ.

**God’s Word**

On the way to Jerusalem He was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. And as He entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” When He saw them He said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” And He said to him, “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.” (Luke 17:11–19)

7. “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” What hardships would the ten lepers have faced in life?

8. Describe the differences between the nine lepers and the one leper.

9. In what ways does Jesus speak to us today, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well”? 
Through Christ, we call on God’s name in faith, asking His help in our troubles, praising Him for His goodness, and giving thanks for all His blessings.

The Catechism

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

Sabbath means “rest.” After He created the heavens and the earth, God rested on the seventh day from all His work. The Scriptures report,

And on the seventh day God finished His work that He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work that He had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all His work that He had done in creation. (Genesis 2:2–3)

In the Old Testament, the Sabbath was Saturday. It was a day of rest and a day devoted to hearing and meditating on God’s Word. For the Christian Church, Sunday is generally the day of rest and worship. Since Christ rose from the dead on Sunday, His people gather especially on Sunday to hear His Word and rest in His salvation.

10. How have attitudes toward Sunday as the Lord’s Day changed in your lifetime?

11. How do God’s people sin against the Third Commandment?

12. In what ways is the Sabbath rest for the body? for the soul?
God’s Word

Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing Him to be in the group they went a day’s journey, but then they began to search for Him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for Him. After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. And when His parents saw Him, they were astonished. And His mother said to Him, “Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for You in great distress.” And He said to them, “Why were you looking for Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father’s house?” And they did not understand the saying that He spoke to them. And He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And His mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man. (Luke 2:41–52)

13. How does Jesus demonstrate His obedience to His Father?

14. “In My Father’s house.” What blessing have you received from worshiping and studying in God’s house?

Forgiven in Christ, we cherish God’s Word. Our heavenly Father invites us to worship regularly, to hear His Word preached and taught, and to learn of His grace in Jesus.
A Verse a Day

Sunday: For where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I among them. (Matthew 18:20)

Monday: You shall not swear by My name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD. (Leviticus 19:12)

Tuesday: And call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me. (Psalm 50:15)

Wednesday: Six days work shall be done, but on the seventh day you shall have a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on it shall be put to death. (Exodus 35:2)

Thursday: Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)

Friday: So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works as God did from His. (Hebrews 4:9–10)

Saturday: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Colossians 3:16)