

**"God is Not a Curse Word!"
(Exodus 20:7)**

The third commandment exhorts us to take great care in speaking God's name. It is a call to watch over, not only our words, but also our heart attitude toward His great name.

I. The Command

"Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain..."

- **Do Not Take His "Name"**
(Proverbs 22:1; 18:10; Ecclesiastes 7:1; Malachi 1:11; Isaiah 9:6)

- **In "Vain"**
(Psalm 139:20; Matthew 12:36)

*Jehovah Jireh – **PROVIDER**

*Jehovah Rapha – **HEALER**

*Jehovah Nissi – **LIFTED-UP ONE**

*Jehovah M'Kaddesh – **HOLY ONE**

*Jehovah Shalom – **PEACE**

*Jehovah Rohi – **SHEPHERD**

*Jehovah Tsikenu – **RIGHTEOUS ONE**

II. The Consequence

"...for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain."

- **Reason for Consequences**
(Exodus 34:7; Jeremiah 30:11; Malachi 2:2)
- **Severity of Consequences**
(Leviticus 24:10-16, 23; Acts 5:3-5; 2 Samuel 6:6-7)

III. The Counsel

- **Watch Your Lips**
(Romans 2:24; Matthew 6:7; 12:34; Psalm 29:2; Ephesians 5:4)
- **Watch Your Life**
(Proverbs 30:9; Malachi 1:6, 11; Philippians 2:9-11; Matthew 28:19)
- **Watch Your Love**
(Colossians 4:5-6)

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Small Group Discussion Guide

Icebreaker: Share the story of how your name was chosen or share how you chose your children's names.

1. Share something from Sunday's message that especially challenged you.
2. What does it mean to take God's name in vain?
3. Review the various names of God in Digging Deeper #1 (below). Which of these names is most meaningful to you right now? Why? How does Proverbs 18:10 apply to our lives?
4. Why do you think God gives such a strong warning about the consequences of using His name in vain?
5. If someone asked for help in breaking the habit of using God's name in vain in their speech, what counsel would you give them? How should we respond to unbelievers who use God's name in vain?

Digging Deeper

1. Read and reflect upon the passages that reveal the "Jehovah" names, noting also their context— Genesis 22:14, Jireh (Provider); Exodus 15:26, Rapha (Healer); Exodus 17:15, Nissi (Lifted-up One); Leviticus 20:8, M'Kaddesh (Holy One); Judges 6:24, Shalom (Peace); Psalm 23:1, Rohi (Shepherd); and Jeremiah 23:6, Tsidkenu (Righteous One). You can do one per day this week to better know and love God's awesome name.
2. For next week: Read Exodus 20:8-11 several times and jot down your observations and questions. What reason does God give for this command? Do a concordance search of the word "sabbath" in the books of Exodus and Leviticus. What does Jesus teach us about the sabbath in Mark 2:23-28?