

# COMMANDMENT 03

**Introduction:** The third commandment is deeper than “watch your mouth.” In Hebrew, it’s about carrying God’s Name—His presence, authority, and reputation—not empty. God has placed His Name on His people; we represent Him wherever we go. Freedom comes when we drop false names and carry His Name with integrity.

## ICE BREAKERS

- ☐ What’s a nickname you’ve had—wanted or not—and what did it communicate about you?
- ☐ Have you ever worn a team jersey or a uniform and felt people expected something from you? What was that like?

## EXPLORE

These passages show that God’s Name is more than a label: it’s where God dwells (Deut. 12:11), what protects (Ps. 20:1), how we walk (Mic 4:5), our mission and identity (Acts 5:41), and our shared covering in Jesus (John 17:11). God even places His Name on His people (Num. 6:27) and calls us by name (Isa. 43:1). The warning in Lev 19:12 guards against using the Name falsely, while Exod. 20:7 presses us not to carry it empty.

- ☐ Read Exodus 20:7, Deuteronomy 12:11, Psalm 20:1, Micah 4:5, Acts 5:41, John 17:11, Numbers 6:27, Isaiah 43:1, and Leviticus 19:12.
  - How do Deuteronomy 12:11, Psalm 20:1, and Micah 4:5 expand your understanding of “Name”?
  - According to Numbers 6:27 and Isaiah 43:1, what happens to our identity when God places His Name on us and calls us by name?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ☐ In your own words, what does it mean to carry God’s Name (Exod 20:7), not just say it?
- ☐ Where do Christians (including us) most often say His Name but live the opposite (e.g., mercy/forgiveness, generosity, truth, love of the poor)?
- ☐ The first two commandments act like guardrails (no other gods; no idols). How do they protect us from carrying the wrong name?
- ☐ We often carry unwanted labels (not enough, too much, failure, disappointment). Which labels have you been tempted to live under? How have they shaped your decisions?
- ☐ If God’s reputation “rode into” your workplace or school on your words and actions this week, what would people believe about Him?

## PRAYER & PRACTICE

Challenge one another to name and confess names that you’ve carried around instead of God’s name. Then share ideas for actions you could take this week to better represent the name of God to those around you.

Close in prayer. Thank God for placing His Name on us through Jesus. Confess ways you’ve carried the Name empty. Ask the Spirit to help you carry the Name well. Pray for people who will encounter God’s reputation through your group this week.

