

The Commandments in Context

The entire Law (Exodus – Deuteronomy) revolves around the Ten Commandments.
You find three types of “law,” or instruction, in Exodus – Deuteronomy:

- *Moral* – the Ten Commandments = the core of the Law
- *Civil* – Applied the Commandments to Israel’s daily life (ex. stealing an ox or sheep – Exodus 22)
- *Ceremonial* – Applied the Commandments to Israel’s spiritual life (ex. sacrifices and feasts – Leviticus)

The civil and ceremonial instruction simply explain, illustrate, and apply the Commandments (Israel’s love and obedience to God, and their relationships with one another). As you read Exodus – Deuteronomy, look for these things.

The Commandments form the core of the entire Old Testament. Look at the Table of Contents in your Bible – Old Testament. (By the way, “testament” is the old English word for *covenant*.)

- **Law or Torah (“teaching”)** – Genesis through Deuteronomy define God’s covenant and its terms (the Commandments).
- **History** – Joshua through Esther show how Israel lived as God’s covenant people – a story of them following and straying from the Commandments and the resulting consequences.
- **Wisdom** – Job through Song of Solomon reflect on life under the covenant – its joys, sorrows, ups and downs.
- **Prophets** – Isaiah through Malachi call God’s people back to obedience to the Commandments and faithfulness to their covenant with God – proclaiming the blessings of obedience and the dire consequences of disobedience (Deut 22-24).

Our kids are naturally sensitive about their names. Our preschoolers love to write it. As they grow, our children perk up whenever they hear other people speak their name. They’re hurt when teased about it. Moms and Dads, use these everyday, normal situations to teach your children about God and *His* name. Help them understand that God is sensitive about *His* name because it represents His character and reputation, as our name does ours.

More Than Just a Name
the TEN series

Words Matter

The worst blasphemy is not profanity, but lip service. Elton Trueblood

1. If possible, watch comedian Tim Hawkins' video clip on Christian cuss words at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iltm9-aXC2Y>. What are some of your "go to" words from his list?
2. In Exodus 20:7, the Hebrew word translated "misuse" or "in vain" means *empty, without substance, worthless*. Do you think this commandment applies to more than just swearing by actually saying God's (or Jesus') name? See these verses:
 - Exodus 22:10-11—
 - Leviticus 19:12-13—
 - Ecclesiastes 5:2—
 - Matthew 15:1-9—
3. How important is it for us to watch what we say—or fail to say—about God? What do these Scriptures teach?
 - James 1:26—
 - Colossians 3:8—
 - Psalm 19:14—
 - Matthew 12:34-37—
4. Think of other times and places that you regularly speak God's name (example: singing worship songs). What would it look like to misuse God's name in these settings? How can we honor God's name at these times?
5. Christians sometimes say, "The *Lord* told me to . . ." or "I feel like *God* wants me to . . ." Pastor Dan said this is claiming God's authority. When could saying something like this be a misuse of God's name? How can we be sure God really has prompted us in some way?
6. Remind one another of the names of God and Jesus in the Bible such as *I AM, Provider, Savior*. Close your meeting time in prayers using these names to praise God for His character and asking Him to help you make His reputation shine.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. Exodus 20:7