

Reverence for God's Holy Name

The Second Commandment is “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain” (Exodus 20:7). To take God's name in vain means to use the Lord's name disrespectfully and to call upon His name out of anger, frustration, or for no worthy reason.

When we treat God's name with reverence, we treat God with respect.

Our name is part of who we are. When people call us by name, that usually means we have a relationship with them. If someone used our name in a harsh way, that would hurt us and hurt our relationship.

We do the same when we use God's name in vain or as a curse word.

God revealed His name to us out of love. He did not need to reveal Himself to us. He did so to be in relationship with us. In return, we should show Him and His name the utmost respect at all times.



Sometimes we hear others use God's name in vain. When this happens, we can respond in several ways:

- We can ask the person not to speak that way and remind him of the honor we owe God's name.
- We can remove ourselves from the situation by leaving that group of people or turning off that TV show or movie.
- We can do some action, such as saying a prayer or making a small sacrifice, to try to repair the damage done, or make reparation. For example, we can pray “Blessed be the name of God” whenever we hear God's name being taken in vain.
- We can build a habit of respecting God's name by bowing our heads whenever we hear the name of Jesus.

In these ways, we can treat God's name with the respect it deserves.

Journal Reflection

Write a prayer that shows reverence for God's holy name. Write your prayer on the journal page. [Journal pages are available on the parent and student portals.](#)