

The Ten Commandments Lesson 3

Commandment #3 & Memory Verse

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

Exodus 20:7 (NIV)



Thoughts for the Teacher

God is the Creator of the universe. He created all that we see. He not only gives us life, but He has sent His Son to save us from eternal death and punishment. We owe Him our allegiance and respect.

The third commandment tells us to honor the Lord's name. We are not to flippantly use God's name as an exclamation of surprise or shock. We are not to shout out the name of Jesus whenever we smash our knee into the coffee table. We are to speak the name of our God and our Savior with humble reverence.

That respect for God's name also extends to the things we use to worship God. The book of Daniel records the story of King Belshazzar who used sacred items from God's temple in Jerusalem to toast gods of gold, silver, bronze, iron, stone, and wood at a party he was throwing. God became angry and sent a hand to write a message on the wall in King Belshazzar's throne room. That very night, the king lost his kingdom and his life.

Take time this week to ponder how great God is. Think of all He has done for you. We show respect for those in authority over us. God is so much greater than the most important person you can think of. We need to show God honor in the things we say as well as the things we do.



THE MYSTERY BAG

Mystery bag items: beach pail and a crystal vase
(or pretty decorative bowl)

(Pull out beach pail.) Can anyone tell me what this is? **(Have students identify it.)** That's right. This is a beach pail. I can use this plastic bucket for all sorts of things. I can take it to the beach and fill it with sand. I can take it in my garden to collect rocks or flowers. In the summer, I can fill it with water to play with. I could even catch a snake and carry it home in my pail.

(Pull out crystal vase or bowl.) Now this is a delicate vase. I can use this to put flowers in to decorate my home. I can set it on a high shelf so that it looks pretty. I need to be extra careful with this vase because it will break easily.

(Hold beach pail and crystal vase next to each other.) These are both containers that can hold stuff. But one is very delicate and is used for special things. Can you tell me which one is treated in a special way? **(Let students identify crystal vase.)** That's right, the crystal vase. It is very expensive and needs to be treated gently.

The third commandment tells us that God is special, and God's things are special. God tells us that we need to treat His name and His things with respect. God made the world and everything in it. God made us. God is the King of all kings. We need to show respect and honor for God's things.

Today's story is about a king who did not respect God's special things. God became angry and sent a message to the king. God did not like His special things being used to worship idols. Let's listen carefully to the story to hear what happened.



Bible Lesson

Taken from Daniel 5

King Belshazzar was having a big party. He had lots of food. He had many guests. There was beautiful music playing. Everyone was laughing and dancing and eating. King Belshazzar looked around the room at all the people. It made him happy to see everyone having a good time. It made him feel proud that he had so many friends. He was proud that he was a rich king that could throw such a big party.

After some time, King Belshazzar thought of some special gold and silver cups that had been taken from God's temple in Jerusalem. The king knew that these were special cups used to honor God, but he also knew how pretty they were. Everyone would see these pretty gold and silver cups and think that he was so rich and special to use such fine cups at a party. So, King Belshazzar called to have the gold and silver cups brought out to serve drinks at his party.

Everyone was given a gold or silver cup. Everyone admired how pretty and expensive they were. King Belshazzar raised his gold cup and offered a toast to praise the idols that his people worshiped. Everyone at the party used God's special cups to worship their idols. God was not pleased.

Suddenly the fingers of a hand appeared in the party room. The fingers began writing a message on the wall. People screamed. King Belshazzar's face turned white, and he fell to the ground in fright. Then the hand disappeared.

King Belshazzar called for all the wise men in his kingdom to come and tell him what the message on the wall said. No one knew. No one could understand the words that the fingers wrote on the wall.

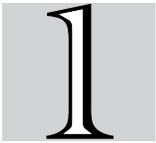
"King Belshazzar," the queen said, "you need to call Daniel. He is a wise man. God helps him understand dreams, riddles, and difficult problems. He will be able to tell you what the words mean."

So, Daniel came to see the king and read the words that the fingers had written on the wall.

"This is what the words say," Daniel told King Belshazzar. "You used God's special gold and silver cups to worship your idols at a party. You did not use God's special cups to worship God. God became angry and sent the hand to write a message on your wall. Your kingdom is about to be taken away from you and given to a new king."

Just as Daniel had warned, King Belshazzar died that very night. A man named Darius sat on King Belshazzar's throne. Because he didn't show respect for God's holy things, God took away King Belshazzar's crown and gave it to someone else. King Darius was now king.

Hands-on Learning



ACTIVITY – “Ten Commandments” Book

Materials:

- “Ten Commandments” Book
- Coloring page with Commandment #3
- Crayons
- Glue

Before Class:

Make copies of the coloring page found on p. 182.

During Class:

1. Have students color the picture of the hand writing on the wall.
2. Glue the picture and third commandment to the next page in the book.
3. Collect the books.




ACTIVITY – *Finger Writing*

Materials:

- Ziploc bags (one for each child)
- Shaving cream*
- Food coloring*
- Tape

Before Class:

1. Put shaving cream and food coloring inside each Ziploc bag.
2. Squeeze air out of bags and seal.

During Class:

Just like God used a finger to write a message, allow students a chance to write messages with their fingers.

1. Securely tape bags down on the table.
2. Have students use their fingers to trace on the bags to make shapes, pictures or letters.

**Sand can be substituted for the shaving cream and food coloring.*

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Bible Lesson Taken from Daniel 5

Because King Belshazzar did not honor the holy things of God, his kingdom is taken from him and given to another. God desires His holy things to be treated with honor and respect.

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