



elev8

life on another level

Student Workbook

YEAR 1

**The Ten
Commandments**
Do not misuse God's Name

Bible Readings

Exodus 20:1–17

Deuteronomy 9

Amos 5

Mark 3



Learning Outcomes

At the end of this week you will be able to:

- Locate the Ten Commandments.
- Express the theme of the third commandment in your own way.
- Apply your learning from the commandment to your own life and community.

Notes from Bible Reading

Scripture A word or phrase that stood out to me:

Observation What is happening in this Bible reading?

Application Something that I learned about who I am or how I should live:

Prayer What I would like to say to God, ask of God, or what I think God is saying to me:

Key Question What does it mean to misuse God's Name?

Engage

Go around the group and share one thing for each heading that has happened since you last met:

- Plus – What has been good or enjoyable?
- Minus – What has been difficult or painful?
- Interesting – What has been unusual or thought provoking?

Has anyone ever said you said or did something that you haven't?

Have you ever said someone else said or did something that they didn't?

What would you wish someone would say that you either said or did that was extremely cool or brave that you haven't yet done?

Explore – Locate

- *What stood out to you in the Bible readings this week?*
- *What did you find meaningful or significant?*
- *Is there anything that you didn't understand or found confusing?*
- *Any questions or comments you may have?*

Read together: Amos 5:4-15

Some people think this commandment is about swearing.

What is swearing? Strong language that is shockingly offensive.

The messengers of God (the prophets) use language like that a lot, probably why they p****d off so many people. Part of the reason they did that was to shock people out of their complacency. They were the punk rockers of their time.

And Jesus himself wasn't too shy about using language and terms that offended people, he even invented some insults himself (e.g. the word hypocrite invented by him), which is fitting because God likes to invent things.

People say enough bad things about God that I don't think he thinks there are special words/sounds that would be more sinful than murder (this is commandment number 2 after all). If he thought swearing was really bad, there would be lot more about against it in the Bible.

What there is a lot in the Bible however is a lot of

criticism and punishment for those people who are supposed to be God's people not acting like God.

God's chosen people were chosen not because they were special, but they were made special because they were to be like God to everyone else (Genesis 12).

They were to show God's justice, mercy, grace and generosity to others. They were to be living examples of how humans were intended to live. They were to bear his family name and resemblance. They were to care about what he cared about, and who he cared about. Their hearts should be broken over the things that break God's heart.

This commandment is a warning against misrepresenting God, and what he cares about and what he doesn't (Leviticus 19:12).

It is a warning against people who want to say God is on their side, and approving of their actions.

It is a warning against those that want to speak on God's behalf and tell others what is God's will (when it is not).

If more people obeyed this commandment we probably wouldn't have had the medieval Crusades, the Spanish Inquisition, the splits in and from the Catholic church, denominations, all the other wars that were done in the name of God, oppression, slavery, abuse in the churches, discrimination and racism, huge global social inequalities, etc.

So how do we avoid breaking this commandment today?

Explore – Express

Get three pieces of poster paper.

On the first one put the term "Our society"

On the second one "Jesus".

On the third one "Christians."

Brainstorm ideas for each page.

- What would they spend their money on?
- What would they spend their time doing?
- What would they definitely not do?
- Who would they want to hang around with?
- What and who do they hate?
- What would they most want?

Compare the lists.

How close are Christians to Jesus?

We often call Jesus, Jesus Christ, but Christ is not his surname, but his nickname or title. "Christ" is Greek for 'the anointed one' or 'saviour' or 'the leader that will free the people and make them great'. The term "Christian" actually means 'little Christ', that is people that are meant to be clones or just like Jesus.

On what areas do 'Christians' differ from 'Jesus'? On what areas should Jesus and Christians differ from the rest of society? How should Christians be more like Jesus?

- What should Christians fight more for on behalf of Jesus?
- What else should Christians be doing in Jesus' name?
- What should Christians definitely not do while being called 'little Christs'?

Explore – Integrate

Little Christs' should care most about the things that Jesus cared most about.

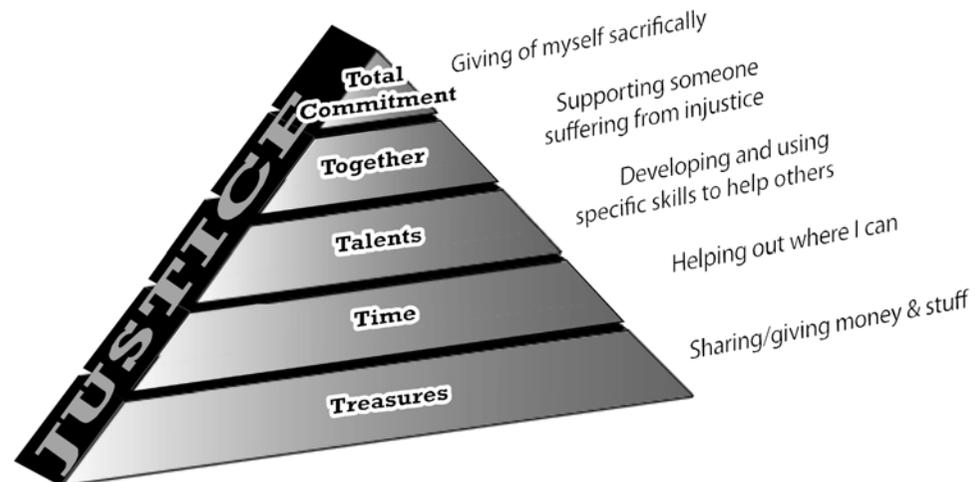
They should speak what God would want them to say was important in life, and also speak up for those that had no voice.

They were to live out the ways that showed others how God created them to live, especially to give a fair go for those that weren't getting that.

Widows, orphans, aliens (migrants and refugees), the poor, disabled, disadvantaged, women, young people, and social outcasts all were highlighted by God to deserve greater care and importance.

If Christians are meant to be about what God is on about:

- Who do I need to give away some of my treasures to show them how much God cares for others?
- How can I use some of my time this week to show someone God cares about those that are usually forgotten?
- What is one area of life I should care more about like Jesus does, and how can I find out more about it to eventually do something about it?
- Who are people that are not getting a fair go in society or at school that need to be supported and defended by little Christs?
- What is one area of life I am not like Jesus that I can change this week?



Extend

Discuss with your group the challenges you are tackling. Use the time to ask for any help you might need, or to work together on any shared projects that you have.

Questions that may be helpful include:

- What challenges are you working on at the moment?
- Do you need any support or assistance?
- Are there any challenges that you have completed that we need to recognise and celebrate?
- Are there any new challenges that you want to work on?

Encourage

Tell another student in your group something you value or appreciate about them.

Share one thing you would like to pray for and pray for one another.

Give thanks that God has chosen us to represent his name, and he believes we can be great examples of him to the world (even in our own brokenness).

Pray that our hearts will be broken by the things that break God's heart.