

3.3 RESPECT THE NAME OF GOD

Topic: Biblical Standard for Peace

Subtopic: Respect the Name of God

1A. God the Creator and Father

Class: Class III (3rd Grade)

Objectives:

Knowledge: When students are asked why it is wrong to misuse God's name, they will say that God's name is not to be used for evil purposes.

Attitude: Students will correct each other should one of them take God's name and use it wrongly.

Materials Needed:

Memory Verse Exercise Book

Chalkboard and Chalk

Exercise Book

Scripture:

References: Exodus 32:1-16

Teacher's Notes

Memory Verse: "Do not use My name for evil purposes." Exodus 20:7

TEACHER ACTIVITIES

Introduction:

1. What's special about your name?

Bible Story:

2. Tell the story of Moses coming down the mountain with the Ten Commandments. What was his concern about God's name?

Suggested Discussion Questions

3. What happened that made God anxious for Moses to leave Mt. Sinai and return to the people?
4. Was God happy with the people making a golden calf to serve as their God? What did He want to do with the people?
5. How did Moses handle God's anger?
6. How did God respond to Moses?
7. Do we ever say things about God that is damaging to His reputation?

Application:

8. What should you do if you hear someone using the name of God for the wrong purpose?
9. Is it right to call one of your friends a name that is hurtful?

Evaluation:

10. When you are tempted to use God's name for the wrong purpose, how will you stop yourself from saying God's name wrongly?

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Introduction:

1. Students will do "What's in a Name?" exercise. (See Extension Activities)

Bible Story:

2. Moses was concerned that God's name be respected and he was afraid that if God destroyed the people, the Egyptians would think God's intention for leading the people out of slavery was an evil one—to destroy them.

Possible Answers to Questions:

3. The people Moses was leading made a golden calf to serve as their god because they thought something had happened to Moses.
4. No. He wanted to destroy them.
5. He reminded God how important it was to keep God's reputation pure.
6. God changed His mind and did not bring disaster on the people.
7. When we use God's name for an evil purpose, we hurt God's reputation.

Application:

8. Mention that God is your friend. It is painful to hear His name used wrongly.
9. No. We need to respect our friends.

Evaluation:

10. Remember memory verse. Ex. 20:7

Extension Activities

1. Have students write their new memory verse in their Memory Verse exercise book: "Do not use My name for evil purposes." Exodus 20:7
2. In their Exercise book, have the students write at the top: RESPECT THE NAME OF GOD. Underneath have them draw something to remind them not to use God's name for evil purposes or how to remind each other not to misuse God's name.
3. "What's in a Name?" exercise. Introduce this exercise by talking about your name. Then pair students together. Take five minutes and have the students ask each other questions about their name. Tell them that when five minutes are up, they may be asked to tell about the name of the person they have been paired with. Question examples they might consider: Does your name have a special meaning? Why was your name chosen for you? Do you like your name? Do you have a nickname (a name people call you for fun)? If time is a factor, invite three volunteers to tell about their partner's name. (You can have the questions on the chalkboard in advance of starting this class so students can refer to them when they are working together.)
4. Discussion of using God's name appropriately. Talk about how important it is to use God's name with respect and love. God's name is holy. When we use His name wrongly we dishonor God and try to make Him human. Sometimes we use God's name to make people think He is behind our actions when, in fact, we are using it to justify our own selfish purpose. We use His name wrongly when we use it as a filler ("O, God") or when we irreverently use the name of Jesus as a divine exclamation point. When people engage in cursing and use the name of God, they are not using God's name correctly. That is an attack on God's power and majesty. It is breaking the third commandment that God gave for us so we can live together peacefully.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS

Highlights for the Bible Story

1. Moses had gone up Mt. Sinai where God gave him the Ten Commandments. It had taken forty days and forty nights for Moses to learn about the things God wanted his people to do.
2. The people Moses left at the foot of the mountain had become restless. They thought something must have happened to Moses and they would never see him again.
3. They told Moses' brother, Aaron, that they wanted an idol to worship.
4. Aaron told them to bring their gold earrings and he would melt them and create an idol they could worship. He created a golden calf which the people began to worship.
5. God knew what they were doing and He was very disappointed.
6. He told Moses to hurry down the mountain. He told him that the people had done a very wicked thing by making a golden calf and worshiping it instead of God.
7. God was very angry and he told Moses that He was going to destroy the people.
8. Moses was very distressed that God's anger was so strong. He told God that His good reputation was going to be lost if God destroyed these people whom He had led out of Egypt and away from their bondage. Moses told God that the Egyptians would think that God's intention was to destroy the people all along instead of bringing them to the promised land.
9. God heard Moses' prayer and changed His mind and did not bring that disaster on the people though he did punish them for their behavior of turning away from Him.

10. It is important that we use the name of God in a reverent way. Our memory verse tells us “Do not use My name for evil purposes.” We use God’s name wrongly when we try to fill in space (“O, God”) or when we swear or curse another using the name of God. We break the commandment God has given us.

Peacemaking Connection

When we become jealous of another, we try to make the other look bad so that we look better. One of the ways we do that is to call the other a bad name, a name that is very hurtful. It does not show respect to the other. It can become the spark to cause a fight or other conflict. Jesus tells us that we should “Do for others what you want them to do for you.” (Matthew 7:12) Before you call another person a bad name, ask yourself if you would like to be called that name and if not, refrain from using it.

Key Points

This lesson looks at the third commandment God gave Moses to help the Israelite people to know how to live peacefully. As we already know, we are to love God above all else. Loving God means that we use His name with reverence, acknowledging that He is above all else. That means we use His name only to honor Him and to keep His reputation clean. We will not use His name for an evil purpose. It also means that we should not call our friends a bad name. We are to show them respect as well.

Teacher Evaluation

When I speak of God, am I speaking with respect and honor of God? Do I ever use God’s name for the wrong purpose? If I do, am I willing to quit using His name that way so I can be an example to these children of using God’s name to honor Him? What does God want me to do to help students use God’s name for the right purpose? How do I handle situations when students call others bad names?