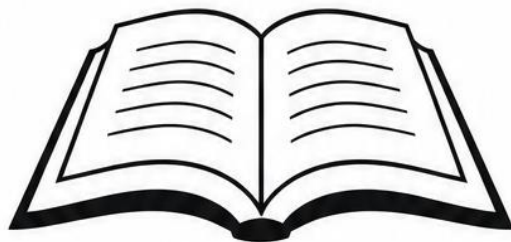


The Ten Words:



*True Freedom,
True Wisdom, True Life.*



Family Worship Guide

UNITY BAPTIST CHURCH



The Third Commandment

You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.
— Exodus 20:7

Big Idea for the Week:

God calls us to bear His name faithfully and to show the world what He is like through the way we live.

What does it look like to represent God faithfully in our everyday lives?

Introduction:

Many people think the third commandment is simply about not cursing or using God's name improperly in speech. But it means much more than that. The first commandment teaches us who we worship, the second how we worship Him, and the third how we represent Him to the world. In the Old Testament, the high priest wore the words “Holy to the LORD” on his forehead, and Israel was called to be a holy nation belonging to God. As God's people, we bear His name and are called to reflect His character. When our lives contradict who God is, we bring dishonor to His name. But Jesus teaches us to pray, “Hallowed be Your name,” calling us to live in such a way that others see who God truly is.

To honor God's name is to show the world what He is like through the way we live each day.

MONDAY — BEARING GOD'S NAME

Reading: Exodus 19:3-6

Theme: We belong to God and are called to represent Him.

Israel was called to be a holy nation, belonging to God and showing the world what He is like. The high priest, as Israel's representative, wore the words "Holy to the LORD" on his forehead. Today, those who belong to God through Jesus are also called to represent Him in the world. That's why we are called "Christians." We represent Christ. Bearing God's name is a privilege, but it also brings responsibility. Praise God for His mercy in allowing us to be called by His name! Ask for wisdom and strength to bear His name with honor and truth.

Prayer Focus: Ask God to help your family remember that you belong to Him and to live in a way that reflects His character.

Suggested Prayer: *Father, thank You for making us Your people. Thank you that we can be called by your name. Help us remember that we belong to You. Teach us to show Your love, goodness, and holiness in the way we live. Amen.*

Suggested worship song:

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

Tuesday — When God's Name Is Dishonored

Reading: Ezekiel 36:22–28

Theme: The Holy Spirit enables us to honor God's holy name.

The people who were supposed to show the world what God was like were living in ways that gave others the wrong picture of Him. Israel's actions caused other nations to speak against God's name. The Prophet Ezekiel spoke of a day when God would pour down His Holy Spirit on people to cleanse them and to equip them to honor God's holy name not only with their lips, but also with their lives. The day that Ezekiel spoke about became a reality in Jesus. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, he now gives the Holy Spirit to all who turn to him in repentance and faith. It is the Holy Spirit who empowers us to bear the fruit of lives that honor God's name.

Prayer Focus: Ask God to fill your family with His Holy Spirit so you might live lives that honor his name.

Suggested Prayer: *Lord, forgive us for the times we dishonored your name. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit. Help us turn away from sin and live in a way that honors Your name. May our lives show others what You are like. Amen.*

Suggested Worship Song:

“There's a Sweet Sweet Spirit in This Place”

Wednesday — Speak Truthfully About God

Reading: Deuteronomy 18:18–22

Theme: We must not claim that God has said something when He has not.

Some people claim that their words or actions come directly from God. Yet what they claim to be God’s message sometimes contradicts His revealed Word in the Bible. We must never use God’s name to present our own words or ideas as though they came from Him. We must not claim to speak for God when He has not spoken. Honoring God’s name means speaking truthfully about Him, handling His Word faithfully, and being humble enough to admit when we do not know something. Where Scripture speaks clearly, we should proclaim its truth boldly. Where Scripture is silent, we must be careful not to speak with an authority God has not given us. As God’s ambassadors, we are called to be faithful messengers, not to alter His message.

Prayer Focus: Ask God to help your family speak truthfully about Him and never use His name to support something that is false

Suggested Prayer: *Father, thank you for revealing Yourself to us. Forgive us for the times when we may have used Your name to support our own ideas or anything that is false. Teach us to speak with honesty and humility. Amen.”*

Suggested Worship Song:

“The Voice of Truth” – Casting Crowns

Thursday — Hallowed Be Your Name

Reading: Matthew 6:9–13

Theme: We honor God's name by treating Him as holy and helping others see who He truly is.

Jesus teaches us to pray, “Hallowed be Your name.” Few people take time to consider what this prayer means. Hallowing God’s name does not mean we make God’s name holy. God is already holy; He does not need us to make Him holier than He already is. Instead, hallowing God’s name means honor His name as holy. Not simply by the way we speak, but also by the way we worship Him, speak about Him, and live before Him. As beloved children of a loving God, our desire is to see the whole world giving God the honor that He deserves.

Prayer Focus: Ask God to help your family honor His name in your words, choices, and actions, and to help others see His goodness through you.

Suggested Prayer: *Father, we can do nothing without your help. Give us the wisdom and strength to honor Your name in our words, choices, and actions. May the way we live help others see Your goodness and love. Amen.*

Suggested Worship Song:

“Blessed be Your name” – Matt Redman

Friday — Live So Others Glorify God

Reading: Matthew 5:13–16

Theme: Every one of us can honor God's name through everyday faithfulness.

Jesus calls His followers the light of the world. He teaches us to let our light shine so that others may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven. We do not have to be pastors, scholars, or popular leaders to honor God's name. We can do it by loving others, forgiving those who hurt us, telling the truth, serving those in need, and being faithful at home and wherever God has placed us. Regardless of your age, gender, social economic status and ethnicity, you can display God's glory in the world by living a life of good deeds done in the name of Jesus. When others ask you, "Why did you display that act of kindness?" You can say, "Because Jesus has been kind to me, and my life belongs to him!"

Prayer Focus: Ask God to help your family live in a way that points others to Him and leads them to praise your Father in heaven.

Suggested Prayer: *Father in heaven, thank you for shining your light in our life. Help us shine Your light wherever we go. May our love, kindness, and good works point others to You, so they will praise Your name along with us. Amen.*

Suggested Worship Song:

"Shine Jesus Shine" – Graham Kendrick
