

Women's Bible Study

10 Apps for Life

App #3: God's Honor – Exodus 20:7

Gretchen Steer – September 29, 2010

Intensive Study Questions

"You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name." (Exodus 20:7)(NIV)

1. Begin by looking up Exodus 20:7 in at least two other translations besides the NIV, above. (Many versions are available online if you don't own other translations.) Does the meaning of the verse change in any way with other translations? How is it different? Now look up Lev. 19:12. What specific type of misuse are we warned against in that passage, and why?

2. Read Matthew 5:33-37. Why does Jesus warn against oath taking? Is there a difference between swearing and oath taking? Is there ever a good reason to take an oath in our present culture? What situations might require it? Does God view oath taking today with the same seriousness as he did in the Old Testament?

3. Jesus' name is often used as a swear word, to express anger. What does the Bible tell us about Jesus' name? Look up Phil. 2:10; Rev. 19:11; Luke 1:31-32, Matthew 1:21. List the different names that Jesus is given. Now look up Hebrews 1:3. What do Jesus' names tell us about God?

4. God had a reputation among the peoples of the Middle East who witnessed his deliverance of the Jews from Egypt. Read Deut. 4:32-35. How was God different from any other local god known to those people? How would a non Jewish person who had witnessed the Jews' deliverance have described God? Look at Joshua 2:8-12. What did the pagan woman Rahab think of God?

5. This commandment is about God's honor. How can we as Christians honor the name of Christ? How do we dishonor his name? The apostles did miracles in Jesus' name (see Acts 4:10, for example). Can we do miracles simply by using Jesus' name? Why or why not?

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Discussion Questions

1. Is swearing the only way that we can misuse God's name? If not, think of some other ways that God's name can be misused. Why is it important to God how we treat his name?

2. In other cultures a name is believed to reveal something of the character or person whom it names. Does your name or nickname reveal anything about you? What does God's name for himself "I AM who I AM" (Exodus 3:14) reveal about him?

3. Followers of Christ are known as Christians – we bear the name of Jesus Christ. Think of some ways that we honor Christ in our speech and action. Now think of some ways that we dishonor Christ in our speech and action. Why would our sin bring shame on the name of Christ among those who don't believe in him?