

WEEK FOUR

RULE 3: USE GOD'S NAME WITH RESPECT

BIG IDEA

REMEMBER WHO GOD IS

when you talk about Him and always respect His name. Don't use God's name as a swear word.

GOD REVEALS HIS NAME TO MOSES

PREP: (Kids can help!)

- Buy a packet of pretzels.

WHAT GOES IN THE BOX?

- Several raw eggs (or use water balloons if you prefer)
- Post-it notes and sheet of paper or newspaper.
- Bag of pretzels.



INTRODUCTION

Who can tell us the first two commandments that God gave to Moses?

What are they mostly about? (LOVE)

Well the next one – the third commandment – is about being respectful to something that is very precious – God's name. This means that we remember who God is when we talk about Him and always show respect for His name. Especially never using it in a bad way and never as a swear word.

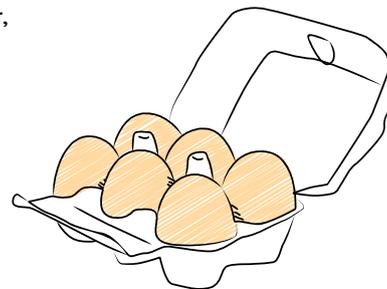
If you were visiting the Queen or Prime Minister, how would you say their name to show honour and respect? (using the name they prefer, such as their title or 'your royal highness', saying their name nicely, etc.)

OUT OF THE BOX

Game

Egg toss (Go outside for this game – it would be handy to have on hand some paper towels or baby wipes!).

- Take a raw egg out of the box. Choose the eldest child and a parent to stand a metre apart.
- Give the child the egg and have them gently throw it to the parent. Then both take a step back and throw it again.
- Keep going, taking a step back after each throw, until finally one of the pair isn't able to catch it. Everyone have a turn.



FAMILY TALK TIME

- Did you throw the egg the same way as you would throw a ball?
- How careful did you have to be when you threw the egg?

When something is really precious, we have to treat it with extra care and respect. God's name is like that.

Although God is our Heavenly Father and we can talk to Him at any time about anything, we also need to remember that He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. He is holy and all-powerful. Giving respect and honour to God's name is the same as giving respect to God himself.

- When you meet someone, what is the first thing they usually tell you?

You can't really be friends with someone unless you know their name. In the Bible, there are a number of different names for God. They each show us something about who He is. So a great way to get to know God better is to learn his special names.

- Have the family think of as many names for God as they can. Write them on Post-it notes and stick onto a sheet of paper/newspaper.

(Saviour, King, Alpha and Omega, Counsellor, Teacher, Good Shepherd, Lord, Heavenly Father, Almighty God, The Lord of Hosts, I AM, The Light of the World, The Bread of Life, Bright Morning Star, Jehovah, etc.)

GAME

Honouring God's Name

(Take everyone out into the backyard, or use the lounge with chairs pulled back.)

- Choose the person who has the shortest name in the family to be in 'heaven' (one end of the room/yard). Everyone else stands on the opposite side of the room/yard. The aim is to try to be the first one to get to heaven.
- The person who is in calls "GO" and then very quickly "FREEZE."
- Everyone runs as fast as they can, and on "FREEZE", they have to freeze where they are. (If you are playing this game in a small space get them to crawl instead of run.)

- Once everyone is frozen, the one in 'heaven' asks the players, starting with the youngest to each tell a name of God. If the person can say one of the names of God they get to jump forward as far as they can. (They are only allowed to say one name at a time and not to use one that has already been said).
- Then the next eldest has a turn. If someone can't think of a name of God, they can think of one of God's qualities (e.g. loving, kind, merciful, faithful, just, all knowing) and then take one granny step forward instead of a jump.
- The person who reaches heaven first can be 'in' next, or just take turns by age.

By the end of this game the children should know much more about the names of God and His qualities!

READ

How God explained His name to Moses

- Pretzel letters: Share out the pretzels and have the children try to chew them into the letters of their names while you read.

☞ After Moses had run away from Pharaoh, because he had killed an Egyptian, he lived in the desert for 40 years. There he met a wise man named Jethro, and married one of his daughters. One day, Moses led Jethro's sheep to the far side of the desert, to Horeb which was known as the mountain of God. There he saw something very strange. At the foot of the mountain, was a bush on fire. It was blazing away but it didn't burn up.

Moses wondered, "What's going on here? Why doesn't the bush burn up?" Then God called to him from out of the bush. "Moses! Moses! Remove your sandals from your feet. You're standing on holy ground." And Moses fell to his knees. He was afraid to look at the bush, because he knew it was God speaking.

"I am the God of your father: The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob."

God said, "I've heard the cries of my people

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in Egypt. And now I have come to get them and bring them to a good land. I've seen for myself how cruelly they're being treated by the Egyptians. I'm sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people out of Egypt."

Moses said, "But what makes you think that I could ever lead the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

"I'll be with you," God said.

Then Moses replied, "Suppose I go to the People of Israel and I tell them, 'The God of your fathers sent me to you'; and they ask me, 'What is his name?'"

God said, "I-AM-WHO-I-AM. Tell the People of Israel, I-AM sent you."

Then God told Moses to throw down his staff onto the ground. Moses did, and it became a snake! Then God told Moses to reach out and grab the snake by the tail, and it became a staff again!

Moses knew then that the great God of the universe was with Him. He did as God directed and through many miracles the people of Israel were delivered from slavery in Egypt and began their journey to the Promised Land. ”

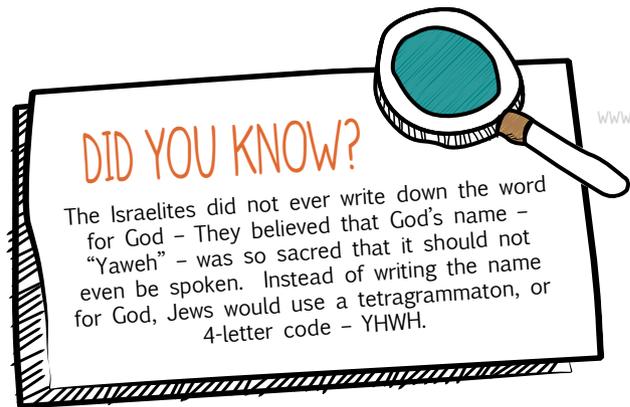
Exodus 3 1-15 (adaption)

EXPLORE

God told Moses to say his name was 'I AM'. Why?

He knew that the Israelites would see it as way to show respect. When people say your name, they think about who you really are, so we should take great care with people's names. God loves to see children having fun, but it is important to be respectful and not fool around during prayer times and when we are saying Grace. You may have heard people use God's name as a swear word or when they are mad. That is doing the opposite of what we should do with God's name.

Here's a little illustration to show how it might feel to



DID YOU KNOW?

The Israelites did not ever write down the word for God – They believed that God's name – "Yaweh" – was so sacred that it should not even be spoken. Instead of writing the name for God, Jews would use a tetragrammaton, or 4-letter code – YHWH.

God when we use His name as a swear word. (Dad or Mum act this out as they speak.)

Scenario 1:

"Let's pretend that I am building 'Mitch' a skate ramp. Here's my hammer and I'm nailing this piece of wood into this other piece of wood. I hold my nail and hammer, hammer, hammer, then WOOPS!! I miss the nail and I hit my thumb really hard with the hammer. 'CALEB!!'" (Say one of your children's names really loudly and angrily.)

Scenario 2:

"Now I am pretending to be Mum. I have some special new drinking glasses that I've just washed, and now I'm drying them, but my fingers are really slippery from all the washing liquid and suddenly the glass slips out of my hand and smashes onto the floor! 'CALEB!!'" (Say the same child's name again loudly and angrily.)

"So, 'Caleb', how did it feel when I said your name in an angry voice when something went wrong? Did you feel as though I was blaming you when I said your name? You know that must be how God feels, when someone suddenly says, "Oh my God" or "Jesus Christ", when they are upset. It's like they are blaming God, and they are certainly not treating His name with respect. God tells us not to do this.

FAMILY TALK TIME

- What are some things we should never ever say?
- Can you think of a time you really wanted to say something but you knew it was wrong?
- What happened?

In the olden days, when children used bad words,

“ ALL I HAVE SEEN TEACHES ME TO TRUST THE CREATION
FOR ALL I HAVE NOT SEEN.”

- RALPH WALDO EMERSON -

sometimes their parents or teachers would wash their mouth out with soap and water – eeew!!!

That wouldn't really make our mouths clean, but God still wants us to have clean mouths in what we say.

- **Do you say God's name in anger or in a bad way?**
Everyone gets upset sometimes, but we have choices about how we handle those times.
- **What could you say to express your frustration in a healthy way?**
- **How can we honour God's name?**

When we say “Hallowed be thy name” in the Lord's prayer, we are praying that everyone will understand how holy and good God is.

Our actions of kindness for others are another way we honour God's name.

We can love and praise God's name out of thankful hearts for all He has done.

PRAY

Put your Post-it notes with God's names on them, in the middle of the table. Have turns each taking one off the paper and praying “Thank you God that you are _____.”

LIVE

This week, everyone try to honour God and other people with the things we say about them.



OTHER IDEAS

Game: Last Man Standing

- We sometimes hear people using God's name in really bad ways – at school or on TV. Sometimes we are tempted to speak like that too. And that's when we have to remember this commandment about having a clean mouth.

Talk about how it is sometimes hard to stay standing and not use bad language when things go wrong. Let's see how well you can handle the hardships that are thrown at you.

Stand an empty plastic bottle, at one end of the room.

Mark a line on the floor that everyone can bowl from.

Before each person's turn, have them name a hardship that might be thrown at them (e.g. being picked on; losing a game; being told off; hurting yourself).

Roll a ball/orange at the bottle. When it hits, practice handling the hardship “cleanly”.

- Have a family ‘Compliment fight’. Everyone say each other's names and then do the opposite of insulting them by saying as many compliments as you can about them.
- Make time this week to talk about when you felt tempted to say things you know God would not want you to say. What are some other words you might use?

**CHECK OUT WHAT YOU
NEED FOR NEXT WEEK...**

