

1. Have no other gods but Me
2. Do not bow down to anything
3. Do not misuse My Name
4. Keep the Sabbath
5. Honor your father and mother
6. Do not kill
7. Do not commit adultery
8. Do not steal
9. Do not lie
10. Do not covet

# The 1<sup>st</sup> Commandment

## Have no other gods but me

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### BEFORE VIEWING — WARM UP

Before you see the program or discuss its contents with others in your group, write down your responses to the following questions:

- Why do think this command was given?
  
- Remembering that the commands were given over 3,000 years ago, does this commandment have much relevance to our lives today? Check one and explain your reason why:

- Yes, it has a lot of relevance — maybe even more important now than when originally given.
- There may be some relevance, but it seems less important now than in biblical times.
- Some, but very little relevance.
- I don't see any relevance at all.

Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
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- In your opinion, within your circle of friends, is this commandment generally respected and taken seriously today?  Yes  No  I don't know

- If it is *not* respected and taken seriously, then *what difference would it make if it were?*

- Can you think of the incidents in your life where this commandment posed a particular problem for you? When?

## GETTING INTO IT — INTRODUCTION

This is a commandment that the Israelites had no end of trouble with. Time and again throughout the Bible the prophets demand, “What did we tell you about worshipping other gods? Cut it out!” And yet they couldn’t quit. They kept at it till it destroyed their nation. Trusting in Yahweh — the Lord — and him alone, was all very well when life went well; but when trouble came, one God just didn’t seem enough. It’s a whole different world, isn’t it? Our trouble today is being bothered to worship one God, let alone worshipping too many. And yet do we sometimes put our trust in the wrong things? Or let the wrong things decide how we act and talk? Maybe then we’re doing pretty much the same thing as the Israelites did when they turned to those other gods. Maybe we too have other gods that we worship today, gods in different guises. As we think about this commandment, try to figure how it applies to us now in the 21st century, and how it applies in your own life.

## AFTER VIEWING

- We have emphasized that the commandments were not given as a repressive list of “do this” or “don’t do that!” Rather, they are a charter of liberty for a people freed from bondage. How can that be said in regard to this commandment?
  
- Can you think of any way in which the disregard of this commandment by others has had an effect on your life? If so, when and how?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Is there anything that puzzled you in this program that you need to think about more?

## YOUR REFLECTIONS

- What new insights about this commandment did I get while watching?
- What practical applications that I need to make in my life did I receive from this program?
- Were there events or occasions in your life that came to mind while you were watching the program? What?

## CONNECTING WITH THE PERSONAL STORIES

In this program there are two stories.



The rich sister

James Mills,  
big-time author



- Did either of them remind you of anyone you know?
- Did you connect emotionally with either of these people? Who? About What?
- In these two case study stories, how is each person (the rich sister in the story, and Jim Mills the writer) living outside this commandment?
- What is it that brings them back?
- The story is all about priorities and “a life that had no room for love or people or God.” What kind of things in our lives can become too big a priority? What can we do about it?
- Jim Mills said, “To all intents and purposes I was God.” In what ways can we be our own God?

## TRY THIS QUIZ

Here are a few questions somewhat related to the commandment, "Have no other gods but me." See how many you know. (The answers are given on page 47.)

1) What unusual sacrifice did the Canaanite god Moloch demand?

- a) Chocolate
- b) Money
- c) Children
- d) Fish

2) Why did the prophet Elijah pour twelve jars of water over an altar to prove that the Lord was greater than the god Baal?

- a) He was purifying his altar after the priests of Baal desecrated it.
- b) They were having a calling-down-fire-from-heaven contest, and he was sabotaging their altar.
- c) They were having a calling-down-fire-from-heaven contest, and he was giving the Lord a handicap.
- d) He was trying to make Baal's altar rot.

3) Which Greek god was St. Paul mistaken for?

- a) Zeus, the king of the gods.
- b) Hermes, the messenger of the gods
- c) Eros, the god of love
- d) Pluto, the god of the underworld

4) How did the Israelites betray the Lord by taking off their earrings while Moses was up the mountain receiving the Ten Commandments?

- a) They melted them down to make an idol.
- b) They gave them as an offering to a foreign god.
- c) God had told them to wear earrings in their right ears to distinguish them from the pagans.
- d) The commandments said they shouldn't have been wearing earrings anyway.

## GETTING READY FOR NEXT TIME

#2, Do not bow down to anything

- Say in a simple sentence or two what this commandment is about and some practical ways that it applies to your life.
- Write down any key questions you hope to have answered by this program.

1. Have no other gods but Me
2. Do not bow down to anything
3. Do not misuse My Name
4. Keep the Sabbath
5. Honor your father and mother
6. Do not kill
7. Do not commit adultery
8. Do not steal
9. Do not lie
10. Do not covet

# The 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment

## Do not bow down to anything

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### BEFORE VIEWING — WARM UP

Before you see the program or discuss its contents with others in your group, write down your responses to the following questions:

- Why do think this command was given?
  
- Remembering that the commands were given over 3,000 years ago, does this commandment have much relevance to our lives today? Check one and explain your reason why:

- Yes, it has a lot of relevance — maybe even more important now than when originally given.
- There may be some relevance, but it seems less important now than in biblical times.
- Some, but very little relevance.
- I don't see any relevance at all.

Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- In your opinion, within your circle of friends, is this commandment generally respected and taken seriously today?  Yes  No  I don't know

- If it is *not* respected and taken seriously, then *what difference would it make if it were?*

- Can you think of the incidents in your life where this commandment posed a particular problem for you? When?

## GETTING INTO IT — INTRODUCTION

Here's another commandment we might feel safe from. I feel as tempted to worship a wooden pole or a stone elephant as I do to throw all my clothes in the sea (i.e., not at all).

Well, if we don't worship idols any more, that's good. But we can still let other things come between us and God, like the idols used to. And that's not so good.

Sometimes it's old fashioned sex 'n drugs 'and rock 'n roll. But couldn't it even be our religion, our church, our leaders? Stuff that's supposed to be good but can get in God's way?

If you look at it like that, this commandment might not be quite so outdated as it first appears.

## AFTER VIEWING

- We have emphasized that the commandments were not given as a repressive list of "do this" or "don't do that!" Rather, they are a charter of liberty for a people freed from bondage. How can that be said in regard to this commandment?

- Can you think of any way in which the disregard of this commandment by others has had an effect on your life? If so, when and how?

- Is there anything that puzzled you in this program that you need to think about more?

## YOUR REFLECTIONS

- What new insights about this commandment did I get while watching?
- What practical applications that I need to make in my life did I receive from this program?
- Were there events or occasions in your life that came to mind while you were watching the program? What?

## CONNECTING WITH THE PERSONAL STORIES

In this program there are two stories.



☞ The photographer in flight

Grace Adams,  
Waco survivor



- In these two case studies, how is each person (the photographer in the story and Grace Adams, the former cult member) living outside this commandment?
- What is it that brings them back?
- Consider how she helped him to be honest again and not hide behind his job or his camera but to come out and be loved.
- How did David Koresh set himself up as an intermediary between God and people? Do you think there's a temptation for a lesser version of the same thing to happen in mainstream churches? What can we do to ensure it doesn't happen?

## TRY THIS QUIZ

Here is a list of gods that the people of the Bible came up against. Link each god to the people who worshipped it, the kind of idol they used, and the biblical reference. (The answers are given on page 47.)

Asherah	Philistines	30-meter golden statue	Judges 16:23
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Dagon	Babylonians	small silver shrines	Exodus 34:11-14
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Artemis	Canaanites	fish	Daniel 3
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King Nebuchadnezzar	Ephesians	wooden pole	Acts 19:23
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## GETTING READY FOR NEXT TIME

#3, Do not misuse my name

- Say in a simple sentence or two what this commandment is about and some practical ways that it applies to your life.
  
- Write down any key questions you hope to have answered by this program.



1. Have no other gods but Me
2. Do not bow down to anything
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5. Honor your father and mother
6. Do not kill
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10. Do not covet

# The 3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment

## Do not misuse my name

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### BEFORE VIEWING — WARM UP

Before you see the program or discuss its contents with others in your group, write down your responses to the following questions:

- Why do think this command was given?
  
- Remembering that the commands were given over 3,000 years ago, does this commandment have much relevance to our lives today? Check one and explain your reason why:

- Yes, it has a lot of relevance — maybe even more important now than when originally given.
- There may be some relevance, but it seems less important now than in biblical times.
- Some, but very little relevance.
- I don't see any relevance at all.

Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- In your opinion, within your circle of friends, is this commandment generally respected and taken seriously today?  Yes  No  I don't know

- If it is *not* respected and taken seriously, then *what difference would it make if it were?*

- Can you think of the incidents in your life where this commandment posed a particular problem for you? When?

## GETTING INTO IT — INTRODUCTION

With the third commandment, we're coming on to more familiar ground. You might not come across too many idols in the course of a week, but you don't have to wait long to hear someone "taking the Lord's name in vain."

The most obvious example is using it as a swear word. But the Israelites had never really thought of doing that, so to them it talked about other things. These would include taking an oath on the name of Yahweh, and then lying; false prophecy — saying, "The Lord says. . .," when he never said anything of the kind; using his name to cast magic spells; blasphemy.

Maybe, ironically, this is the most dangerous one of all for Christians. How many Christians would never use the Lord's name as a swear word, but pass off their own opinions and interpretations as the word of God?

As we look into this commandment, think about which different ways people can misuse the Lord's name and about which ways we can use it properly.

## AFTER VIEWING

- We have emphasized that the commandments were not given as a repressive list of "do this" or "don't do that!" Rather, they are a charter of liberty for a people freed from bondage. How can that be said in regard to this commandment?

- Can you think of any way in which the disregard of this commandment by others has had an effect on your life? If so, when and how?

- Is there anything that puzzled you in this program that you need to think about more?

## YOUR REFLECTIONS

- What new insights about this commandment did I get while watching?
- What practical applications that I need to make in my life did I receive from this program?
- Were there events or occasions in your life that came to mind while you were watching the program? What?

## CONNECTING WITH THE PERSONAL STORIES

In this program there are two stories.



**A little girl and  
a homeless man**

**Johnny Lee Clary** 

**from the KKK**



- What does the story about the girl and the homeless man illustrate about the importance of names?
- Johnny Lee Clary, the former KKK leader, said “I was taught by the Ku Klux Klan that God’s true chosen people are the white people. They would take the scripture for instance in 2 Corinthians 6:14 that says, “what fellowship has light with darkness,” and said that meant that blacks and whites are supposed to remain separate from one another.” In what way is this breaking the third commandment? Is it possible to back up your beliefs from the Bible and still be taking God’s name in vain?
- “When I got face to face to him I said to him, ‘Well, you no good sorry black so and so.’ He looked at me and smiled and goes, ‘God bless you son. Jesus loves you.’” How does Reverend Wade Watts’s way of using the Lord’s name compare with the Klansman’s?
- “When you use God to justify that hatred, that’s taking his name in vain.” What other wrong ideas and actions do people (including us) justify in God’s name? How can we be sure that what we say and do in his name is right?

## TRY THIS QUIZ

Here are a few questions somewhat related to the commandment, "Do not misuse my name." See how many you know. (The answers are given on page 47.)

1) The following people were given their names by God. Link the name to its meaning.

- |                       |       |                       |
|-----------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| a) Abraham            | _____ | He laughs             |
| b) Isaac              | _____ | The Lord is gracious  |
| c) Israel             | _____ | The Lord saves        |
| d) John (the Baptist) | _____ | Father of many        |
| e) Jesus              | _____ | He struggles with God |

2) Who in the Bible felt so bad she changed her name from "pleasant" to "bitter"?

3) Who in the Bible received the compliment of having his name changed from "reed" to "rock"?

4) Who in the Bible named his sons "Not-Loved," "Not-My-People" and "Trouble," and why?

5) A number of names in the New Testament are Greek versions of Old Testament Hebrew names. Link the OT name on the left to its equivalent NT name on the right.

- |           |       |        |
|-----------|-------|--------|
| a) Simeon | _____ | James  |
| b) Judah  | _____ | Mary   |
| c) Joshua | _____ | Joseph |
| d) Miriam | _____ | Jesus  |
| e) Saul   | _____ | Simon  |
| f) Jacob  | _____ | Paul   |
| g) Joseph | _____ | Judas  |

## GETTING READY FOR NEXT TIME

### #4, Keep the Sabbath

- Say in a simple sentence or two what this commandment is about and some practical ways that it applies to your life.
- Write down any key questions you hope to have answered by this program.