

## Discussion Questions for Small Groups – Commandments 3 & 4

“Word Three” - Ex. 20:7 *You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.*

- How does God’s name reveal His nature, His character, His essence?
- Why did God reveal His name in words?
- Why do you suppose God gave this commandment to Israel? Why is God particular about His name? What emphasizes the seriousness of this commandment?
- How was Israel to live out? How are we to live it out?
- In what ways do we profane God’s holy name, consciously or unconsciously? How do we profane His character?
- Which of the names of God resonate most with you? Why?
- The Good Shepherd calls his sheep by name and they hear his voice (John 10); He knows us by NAME (Sunday’s sermon). Why is this significant?
- Do you know the biblical meaning of your name?
- Names matter to God. See: Gen. 2:19; 4:26, 11:1-9, 12:2-3, 32:24-30; Ex. 3:13-15; Matt. 1:21-23; Jn. 10:3; Acts 2:21, 4:12; Phil. 2:9-10; Heb. 1:1-4; 1 Jn 5:13; Rev. 2:1-3, 3:5, 3:11-13, 19:13-16; Luke 10:17-20; Heb. 12:22-24; Rev. 20:14; Rev. 21:22-27.
- What does being named/identified as a “Christian” mean to you?

“Word Four” - Ex. 20:8 *“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> For six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath of the LORD your God; on it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male slave or your female slave, or your cattle, or your <sup>[a]</sup>resident who <sup>[b]</sup>stays with you. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and everything that is in them, and He rested on the seventh day; for that reason the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”*

- What comes to mind when you hear the words “Rest?” “Worship?”
- Why did the Great Physician establish a foundational principle and pattern of rest/worship for Israel?
- Give biblical examples of how Israel (the Pharisee’s) misinterpreted/abused God’s intent for the Sabbath? What was their motive? How did Jesus respond?
- Have you ever experienced “Sabbath scrupulosity”? Blue Laws?
- What did Jesus mean when He said, “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath” (Mk. 2:27). MacArthur’s commentary, “Significantly, the command for the Sabbath is not repeated in the NT, whereas the other 9 are. **In fact, it is nullified**” How is the “reality” found in Christ? (cf. Col. 2:16, 17).
- The word “Sabbath” means “to rest or cease from work”. Resting can be hard work. How do we “strive to enter the rest of God” and experience Shalom on a continuing, permanent basis?
- How did the poem “Invictus” speak to you? *Is God the Captain of your soul?*