

Second Commandment
Do not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Read Psalm 50:15, Psalm 145:18, Romans 10:13

1. In order to get along with God, to obey the First Commandment, you need to have His name. Why is this the case? See Joel 2:13 and Romans 10:13 for a helpful hint. How do these verses inform what God wants from you?
2. To what extent, if any, have you ever thought of God as a person with a name? How does that shape your understanding of God?
3. Discuss what happens when we attempt to keep God as an idea and when we deal with God the person. Think of it in terms of the difference between asking the question “what?” vs. “who”. Does God want to be known as a thing (what?) or a person (who)? What difference does it make?
4. Have you ever thought of Baptism as the moment in which you are given God’s name? What is that full name of God given to you in Baptism (In the name of...)?
5. Having God’s name establishes a personal relationship with God, you have God’s “calling card” when you have His name. Discuss some of the things people might experience or anticipate, both positively and negatively, as the result of such a personal relationship.
6. Exodus 20:7 says ““For the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.” Discuss why you think God is concerned about our proper use of His name, and how that relates to our ability to call on Him in good times and in bad times.
7. What happens when you try to change God’s name to something God did not give you to call upon?