

Dear Families:

Today we continued our study of the Ten Commandments. So far, we have learned Commandment 1 (Put God first) and 2 (Don't worship idols). Today we learned Commandment 3: Don't take the Lord's name in vain.

What does this mean? Well, no one likes to be called names, or have someone tease them because of their name. There are many adults who don't even use their real names because they don't like them or had someone tease them while they were young! Since God is the most important thing in our lives, He needs to be treated with respect. Just like we would not be happy if someone used our name to mean something negative, God does not like it when we use His name in a negative way. When we get mad or upset, we should not use God's name to express our bad feelings. As ambassadors of God, we also represent His name. We need to give God's name a good reputation by always doing our best in front of others. In this way, we honor the name of God.

For a few of the commandments, God adds a little explanation after the commandment because He feels it is important to clarify the meaning. In Exodus, God says that those who misuse His name will be punished. The early believers took this to heart, and refused to speak or write His actual name at all just to be on the safe side! We learned about God's real name, too, and other titles that He and believers have used throughout the scriptures.

I know it seems early, but the class has already begun making plans for this year's Christmas Pageant. We have changed the date to Sunday December 14th to accommodate more student participation. We hope you will be able to celebrate the season with us as we learn the true meaning of Christmas!

Thank you for being with us today!

Carol McClellan, CE Director