



TEN: Name in Vain | May 4, 2016

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

Not using God's name in vain is a way bigger deal than not swearing. The way we represent God is the most significant reason people decide whether to trust Him or run from Him.

Key Verse

John 13:34-35 (MSG)

Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples—when they see the love you have for each other.

Discussion

We have all experienced some sort of street corner prophet yelling condemnation upon the masses. In those moments, it is typically pretty easy to see the effects of their words and the story they are telling is not bringing anyone closer to God.

1. What types of things have you heard people say that misrepresent God?
2. If you had to sum up God's story for a crowd of people, what things would you include or highlight?

The 3rd Commandment asks us to not use God's name in vain. For many, this is just as simple as not swearing. However, God is most interested in how we represent Him and His story. Spiritual oppression "in the name of God" is the single most damaging thing in a person's spiritual walk.

3. What are some examples of spiritual oppression? Have you experienced any?
4. What things have you seen or heard from Christians that if they were truly "in the name of God" would make you not want anything to do with God?

The Bible doesn't say that people will know followers of Jesus by how intolerant they are or how many people they fix. Jesus says that people will know God by the way we love one another. Loving one another is a more accurate representation of God than telling someone how to fix all the wrong they have done.

5. In what places do you think we misrepresent God?
6. What are some ways we could adjust our approach to sharing God with others that would cause them to consider Him rather than ignore or run from Him?

What's Next?

Whether we like it or not, we paint a picture of God. Unfortunately, we as humans identify an entire group of people by the loudest voices. We have some work to do in order to let our daily lives speak louder than the guy with a megaphone at a concert. What intentional thing can you do this week to better represent God and His story for our lives? Is there anything you need to undo in your interactions with others as you may have misrepresented God? Moving forward, let's let our love paint a better picture of our God so that people are drawn to Him.