

LESSON 10

Respect God's Name



Learning Objectives

In this lesson you will:

- Recognize the importance of respecting God and using his name with reverence.
- Understand that respecting God's name requires a sincere and loving relationship with God as Father.
- Grow in your desire to bless God with all your words, as did Saint John Chrysostom.

Opening Prayer

O Lord, may your Holy Name be blessed now and for ever. Amen.





Opening Activity

Scan the QR code to access the online resources.

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Introduction

Did you know that Jesus had a nickname for the two apostles Saint James and Saint John? They were brothers and were called “Sons of Thunder” (Mk 3:17) because of their intense and zealous personalities. Their father’s name was Zebedee. These apostles loved Jesus and left everything to follow him. They worshipped God alone, following the first commandment. In this lesson we will be discussing the second commandment, which centers on God’s holy name. When Jesus taught Saint James and Saint John how to pray along with the other apostles, he used these words “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name” (Mt 6:9). “Hallowed” means something that is made holy and greatly honored.

Reflection Questions

1. *Do you know what your name means?*
2. *What things in your life do you consider to be hallowed?*



Point **1**

Second Commandment

The Second Commandment goes as follows:

“You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name” (Ex 20:7).

Names have meaning, especially Biblical names, such as: Zechariah, “God remembers”; Gabriel, “Power of God”; and Raphael, “God Heals.” Names are important. A name says who we are and indicates how people feel about us. The name we call another person often shows what our relationship is. Suppose a man’s name is Robert Johnson. His wife calls him Rob. His mother calls him Robby. His coworkers call him Bob, Robert, or Mr. Johnson. His children call him Dad. The way we say someone’s name often shows our attitude toward that person.

Point 2

Respecting Names

Some people tend to use the name of Jesus or God in a disrespectful way, like the “bad thief” in the crucifixion story. The bad thief was a criminal who was crucified to the left of Jesus. He mocked Jesus by saying: “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” (Lk 23:39)

People who speak this way **blaspheme** or curse God. They show great disrespect by the way they say his name. What is most important is that we love God and show **respect** for him. If we truly love God, we will be filled with piety, a gift of the Holy Spirit. When we show our love for God and honor his name, we are **blessing** him for his abundant holiness and goodness. It is important to respect God and use his name with **reverence**. Respecting God’s name requires a sincere and loving relationship with God the Father.

Point 3

The Father: ‘Abba’

Jesus himself called his Father **Abba**. “Abba” is a Syriac word that means “Dad.” It is an affectionate name that shows great love and respect for a parent. It is fitting that Jesus addressed God as Abba because God is his Father. By virtue of our Baptism, God is also our Father. That’s why Jesus taught us to pray by calling God “Abba,” or our Father.

Activity 1

Bookmark

Directions: *Our names have special meanings, especially those in the Bible. Create a bookmark with a biblical name on one side. On the back, illustrate who that person is or what the name means.*



Activity 2

The Names of God

Directions: *Jesus calls himself many names throughout the Gospels. Look up the four Bible passages below and write down the name that Jesus calls himself. Discuss which one is your favorite.*

John 6:35

Matthew 17:22

John 8:12

John 10:11



Maronite Wisdom

O Lord our Lord, you sent us your only Son, who is the radiance of your eternity, and he accomplished his plan of salvation for us, that we may come to you. May we call upon you with the prayer that he taught his holy disciples, saying: *Our Father...*

— *Book of offering: Anaphora of Saint John Chrysostom*

My Role Model

Saint John Chrysostom, Patriarch of Constantinople



A good role model for obeying the second commandment is a saint named John Chrysostom. The word “Chrysostom” means “golden tongued.” This nickname refers to John’s great gift for words. John was born in Antioch in the fourth century. After he became a priest, he worked as a preacher and then became the Patriarch of Antioch. Everyone who listened to John was filled with piety, sincere respect, and love for God. The people wanted to be as close to God as John was. John later became the Patriarch of Constantinople. Today, the Church honors him as a Father and Doctor of the Church. We celebrate his feast day on November 13.

Saint John Chrysostom, pray for us.

Recall



Unscramble the words to complete the sentences.

1. To **SHAMEEBPL** is to sin against the second commandment.
2. One way to show **ERCESPT** for God is to say his name with love and reverence.
3. Obeying the second commandment requires a sincere and loving relationship with God as **REHTAF**.
4. Saint John's nickname was **TOMSCYSHOR**.
5. We can imitate Saint John by **SLINGEBS** God with all our words.
6. **EPYIT** is the gift of the Holy Spirit that helps us obey the second commandment.



Weekly Journal

Think about a name you would like to call God and how it makes you feel.

Write: How did you pray to God this week? Did you call him Dad or Abba?



Concluding Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our
trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now
and for ever. Amen.

Climbing the Mountain

Bonus Materials for Students & Teachers



Lk 23:39–43

The Crucifixion of Jesus

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

Reflection

In Jesus’ final hours, he is not surrounded by his apostles, but by two strangers: the good thief and the bad thief. Yes, literally hanging next to Jesus were two criminals. The thief on the right repented and followed him to paradise, while the one on the left rejected him. When we read the gospel on the Great Friday of the Crucifixion, there is a lit candle to the right of the crucifix for the salvation of the thief who repented and a candle with a black ribbon to the left of the crucifix for the thief who did not. Following Jesus means saying yes to him until our final breaths.

Saintly Quote

“Stretch out your arms toward the cross, so that the crucified Lord may stretch out his arms toward you. The one who does not stretch out his hand toward the cross cannot approach his table either.” — *Saint Ephrem*

Questions

1. How do you feel about Jesus on the cross? What would you say to him?

2. What does this Scripture verse say about calling on the name of Jesus and Jesus' love for those who repent?

Reaching the Summit

For Teachers & Parents



“The second commandment enjoins respect for the Lord’s name. The name of the Lord is holy.” — CCC 2161

What Is in the Name?

We find the second commandment in the book of Exodus in the Bible; and it tells us: “You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name” (Ex 20:7).

Another way we make wrongful use of the name of the Lord is using it in vain; that is, in an irreverent manner. Did you know that in vain means “uselessly or carelessly”? The way we say someone’s name shows our attitude toward them. If we are angry, we may say the name in a loud, harsh way. If we are happy, we may say the name softly and with love.

Respecting Names and Places

If we truly love God, we will be filled with piety, one of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. We will show our love by blessing God for his abundant holiness and goodness. We will thank God for all that he has given us. We will never curse God in moments of anger. We will say God’s name only with respect and love. We will also show respect for people, places, and things that are holy. Many Jewish people respect God’s name so much that they never say it or write it.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you feel you need to show respect for God’s name?
2. How can you teach your child to show greater respect for adults?



Words to Know

Q. What does **Abba** mean?

A. An affectionate name that means “Dad.” Jesus addressed God as Abba, a name that shows great love and respect for a parent.

Q. What is **blasphemy**?

A. The sin of cursing God or showing disrespect for him by the way we say his name. Blasphemy is a sin against the second commandment.

Q. What is a **blessing**?

A. Something that is good in itself and good for us. All blessings come from God. It also means to praise God. We show our love by blessing God for his abundant holiness and goodness.



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more information.**

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