








## Small Group/ Reflection Notes

| 22-09-2024  |   | In God's Name    |  |
|-------------|---|------------------|--|
| <br>Start   | <input type="checkbox"/> Play a game of Holy Sevens. As a group, in turn, number off 1, 2, 3..., each person saying the next number. The challenge is to substitute any number with a '7' or multiple of '7' with "Holy" e.g. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, "Holy", 8... 13, "Holy", 15, 16, "Holy", 18, 19, 20, "Holy", 22...  |                  |  |
| <br>Discuss | <input type="checkbox"/> What does your name mean?<br><input type="checkbox"/> Why do we each have a name? How would you feel if you didn't have a name?<br><input type="checkbox"/> Why do some think it OK to use God's Name as a profanity?<br><input type="checkbox"/> Does God need us to defend <i>Them</i> (Father, Son & Holy Spirit)?<br><input type="checkbox"/> "People behave worse when they think they're defending God."<br><input type="checkbox"/> What does it mean to misuse God's Name?   |                  |  |
| <br>Read    | <a href="#"><u>Exodus 20:1-7</u></a>  | <br>Listen again | <a href="http://ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Watch">ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Watch</a> |
| <br>Explore | <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">v.7</a> : Why is this, the 3 <sup>rd</sup> , often thought the most simple of the 10?<br><input type="checkbox"/> When have you felt in the presence of Holiness? How did you respond?<br><input type="checkbox"/> Why might the Hebrews/ Israelites have thought God's Name too holy to say/ write?<br><input type="checkbox"/> God's Name was/is the core of who God is, what God is like, how God acts, everything that <i>is</i> God – all encapsulated perfectly and completely in one Name – <i>Yahweh/ God</i> .<br><input type="checkbox"/> Do we misuse God's Name if we become too familiar with the Divine?<br><input type="checkbox"/> Contemporary worship often reasserts the truth of our closeness, intimacy with God (based on e.g. <a href="#">John 15:15</a> ). Has the pendulum swung too far? How do we maintain <i>both</i> intimacy/ friendship with God <i>and</i> awe/ reverence for God. What happens when we major on one, ignoring the other?<br><input type="checkbox"/> If God is Love, what does it mean to 'fear the Lord'? What's the difference between <i>scared</i> intimidating fear and <i>sacred</i> holy fear?<br><input type="checkbox"/> Do we misuse God's name if we suggest God is something <i>They</i> (Father, Son & Holy Spirit) aren't? For example, some emphasis <a href="#">1 John 4:8</a> God is.. Love (acceptance), others <a href="#">1 John 1:5</a> God is.. Light (holiness). Why is it both/and, not either/or?<br><input type="checkbox"/> How does our/ your church tradition, upbringing, culture, personality type all influence what we/you believe God is like and does?<br><input type="checkbox"/> Where do we get our theology from? Why do 'memes', worship song lyrics, catchy slogans, social media posts etc. sometimes give us an incomplete misunderstanding of God?<br><input type="checkbox"/> "If, coincidentally, God always seems to agree with you, think like you, vote like you, feel comfortable with those you feel comfortable with, you've probably missed something about God." Do you agree? Why? |                  |  |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Do we misuse God's Name if we use it to justify or promote our own desires, prejudices, ambitions, wants etc? How? e.g. God has called me to be... God wants me to have... God says they are all...</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">John 16:23-24</a>: Why do we pray 'in the NAME of Jesus'? Are we asking Jesus to yield to what we want or for us to yield to what Jesus wants? How do we discern the difference? How do we pray in line with the nature/ Name of God?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Matthew 5:33-37</a>: Instead of misusing God's Name, how can we 'own' our own desires, prejudices, ambitions, wants...?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">v.7</a>: What turns this, the 3<sup>rd</sup>, from being a command into a promise? You shall not misuse/ manipulate the name of the Lord; you won't need to, because I'm giving you authority to pray with and in the Spirit.</li> </ul> |
| <br>Go further      | <input type="checkbox"/> Instead of using God's Name, the Hebrews/ Israelites came up with lots of different <i>titles</i> for God, e.g. Creator, Healer, King of Kings... How many more can you identify? Which one feels most significant for you right now?   |
| <br>Reflect         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Which one verse stands out to you? Why do you think it grabs your attention?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Which verse(s) will you need to think more about? Why?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Meditate on, "Blessed be Your Name"</li> </ul>   |
| <br>Do              | <input type="checkbox"/> Research the origins of your name.  |
| <br>Pray            | Say aloud and repeat slowly, over and over:<br><br><i>Blessed be your Name.</i>  |
| <br>My questions: |  |

If you're not yet in a small group, why not join one! Check out: [ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/SmallGroups](http://ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/SmallGroups)  
Can't see a group to suit your availability/interest? Start one! [SmallGroups@ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk](mailto:SmallGroups@ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk).