

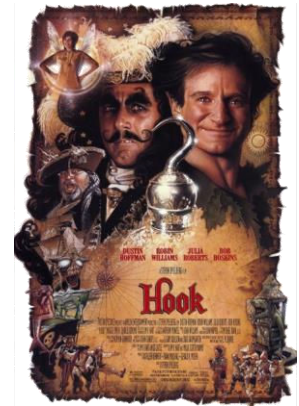
Ambassador

Lesson 8



Pain in a Name!

Have you ever seen the movie “Hook” based on the classic childhood story Peter Pan? One of the great scenes in this movie is when the “old” Peter Pan (played by Robin Williams) is coming off a hard day of training and preparation to rescue his kids from his arch-enemy Hook. He’s tired, beat up, frustrated, and most of all, hungry. As he sits at the table with the other “Lost Boys,” his appetite begins to get even stronger as they bring pots and pans steaming from their brims. He cannot only smell the mouth-watering food that has been prepared for him but he can also taste it.

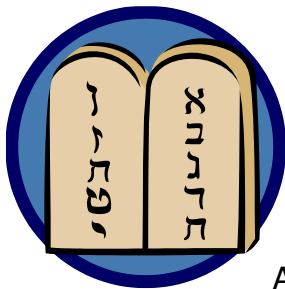


As soon as the “GRACE” prayer was offered up, dinner was served. But to Peter Pan’s outlook, pots and pans were served rather than FOOD! Peter was participating in a game that the “Lost Boys” would play. They would **pretend** to eat and not **really** eat. Could you imagine the disappointment, the anger, and the astonishment of wanting something so bad and to have someone play with your emotions like that? It would be heartbreaking. So from Peter Pan’s outlook, dinner was served in Vain.

God, in His third of the Ten Commandments, speaks about things being done in Vain. Read Exodus 20:7-

“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.”

So before we move on, let’s go ahead look at the original meaning of this word **vain**. This will give us clarity for the rest of this Bible study and might be very shocking how we often take the Lord’s name in vain and how detrimental that really is.



The word **vain** comes from a Hebrew root meaning “to be empty,” or to be without “substance.” Another way of putting it is being useless or worthless. Can you see how or even why God is concerned about protecting His name? How could His name ever be seen as useless or worthless?

As a Christian, we are to be Christ Followers. We not only have our own individual names, but we also carry the name of the Lord with us. Do we really want to represent or speak of God as being useless, worthless, empty, false, or unreal? Or more

than that, do we want to sit by and let someone speak or display God as being vain? I hope not.

So the 1st point that needs to be touched on is that we must not make the name of the Lord be in vain by our lifestyle. Read II Timothy 2:19-

“Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, ‘The Lord knows those who are His,’ and, ‘Let everyone who names the name of the Lord abstain from wickedness.’ ”

When someone is to examine your life, it should be honoring to the Lord. If not, you are representing His name in vain.

The 2nd point is this, you should never want to speak of the Lord’s name in vain. Read the first part of Leviticus 22:32-

“And you shall not profane My holy name...”

Now, we all know what this is about. If we are honest with ourselves, we have probably all used His name in vain (like OMG...but using the actual words that it stands for). In our society and in your schools and circle of friends, people misuse and use the name of the Lord in vain consistently. When some people get overwhelmed or upset, they spit out “Jesus Christ,” or something of that nature. When someone bumps their toe or gets fouled hard on the basketball court, you might hear a G__D__. The point is, our culture has numbed us to this point. And this is dishonoring to God. This is something that we shouldn’t do, and we shouldn’t tolerate anyone else doing it either. God’ name is to be spoken of respectfully and honoring to Him.



In conclusion, God’s name is not empty, false, unreal, or in Peter Pan’s case, not satisfying. First and foremost, God is real, true, and satisfying. God’s name is to be associated with attributes that reflect who He is. For example, some may know God as Jehovah Rapha, which means God is our “healer.” Or some may know God as Jehovah Jireh, He is our “provider.”

God wants to reflect who He is through His people and His name. That is why it is disrespectful for someone to:

- Trivialize His name or make light or fun of it.
- To use His name in profanity or blaspheme against it.
- Even use it in worship thoughtlessly, just mouthing words.

Now click here to watch this Supplemental Video about your lesson: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yHTMs8heMuw>

Think About It



Click here if you are taking your quiz online, then send the email you receive to your mentor to grade and discuss: <https://forms.gle/xzofMPJAdWArGqom9>

Complete this assignment and set up a time to meet with an adult mentor who will go over this with you. Mentor, after you have graded this lesson using the Answer Key, please enter the lesson online using the links that are on our website in order to receive credit. Thanks.

Student Name: _____

1. How would you define the word **vain**?

2. In what ways or how have you seen God's name being trivialized or made fun of? And how do you respond?

3. Do you use or shout God's name when using profanity? If so, how do you plan to stop? If not, how can you encourage others not to?

4. What does God's name mean to You?