

Aim: To look at the different types of swearing including swear words that break the 3rd Commandment.

Refer: www.thefreedictionary.com/gosh; www.nationmaster.com/ecyclopedia/Minced-oath;
<http://people.howstuffworks.com/swearing.htm>; Leviticus 19:31; Acts 19

The Bible tells us some of the things that Goliath was saying, but I'm guessing that he probably had other insulting things to say about the Israelites and their God. Today we are looking at the 3rd Commandment which is about not "miss-using" God's name and it wouldn't surprise me if Goliath was breaking the 3rd Commandment.

Today we are going to talk about some different kinds of swearing.

The first type we will talk about is swearing that breaks the 3rd Commandment.

Read or say the 3rd Commandment - "You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God. The Lord will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name." **Exodus 20:7** NLT

Say "Yes" if you ever hear people swearing using God's name or Jesus' name? It is very common these days.

How do you feel when people make jokes about your name?

How would you feel if someone was telling mean or untrue stories about you?

If we love God we won't use His name as a swear word; we won't tell lies or make jokes about Him either; when we talk to God, or talk about Him, we will talk with respect.

Did you know that swear words that start with "G" like gosh or golly or gee, actually mean "God"?

Another type of swearing is the type that insults other people; either calling them something insulting, or saying something bad about their culture, or family.

How do you feel when someone says something mean or insulting to you?

Read: Matthew 7:19. We call this verse the golden rule; if everyone followed it, the world would be a much happier place.

The last 6 Commandments can be summed up by Luke 10:27 which says "Love your neighbour as yourself" NLT. So really, anything that is not kind or loving, anything that is mean or hurtful to other people, is breaking God's Commandments.

Another type of swearing is when someone swears that something is true or that they will do something.

Have you ever heard people using this type of swearing? (I swear I will do something or I swear by something that this is true?)

Read Matthew 5:33-37

So if you're swearing using God's name or something that belongs to God, you'll be breaking the 3rd Commandment, and if you're swearing using the name of something else, it has no power compared to God and it's like swearing to an idol. It's better to practice saying "Yes I will" or "No I won't" and to mean and do what you say.

The last type of swearing that we will look at is when a person hurts themselves or something goes wrong and they say a swear word about it. From the internet: <http://people.howstuffworks.com/swearing.htm>

Most researchers agree that swearing came from early forms of word magic. Studies of modern, non-literate cultures suggest that swearwords came from the belief that spoken words have power. Some cultures, especially ones that have not developed a written language, believe that spoken words can curse or bless people or can otherwise affect the world.

The Bible says that we should have nothing to do with magic. **Do you think God would want us to use swear words?**

Have you ever had a swear word just slip out, even if you're trying not to swear?

Almost everyone today swears we hear it from the TV and from people around us and when everyone around us is doing it, it's really hard not to sometimes, especially if you are surprised. It's really easy to sin, and it can be really hard to do the right thing. But God loves you and He is always ready to help you if you ask Him, and to forgive you when you do make a mistake.