**“The Gracious Creator of All”**

Going deeper in Exodus 20:4-6

**INTRODUCTION** The LORD through Moses has let the people of God know that he is their God and that he was the one who rescued them of the land of slavery. Then he has given them the first commandment - *3 You will have no other gods, only me.*

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 4 Don’t carve or create images of those imagined gods. Nothing in the heavens above or in the earth and waters below. 5 Don’t bow down to them and don’t serve them because I am the LORD. I am your God and I am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the parents of the children to the third and even the fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing gracious and steadfast love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

7 Don’t misuse the name of the LORD your God, trivializing him or using his authority for your purposes. He will not put up with the irreverent misuse of his name.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. What do you think is the problem with images?

2. The Israelites have been slaves for 400 years in Egypt. Egyptians worshipped many gods and had many images of these gods. What does the LORD want to make clear to them with this commandment? What is the message for us today?

3. Can you think of times when jealousy might be a good thing? Do you think that there may be a difference between our jealousy and God’s jealousy? Why or why not? Why is God jealous for us?

4. What is the typical understanding of misusing the name of the LORD? In the sermon it was proposed that misusing the name of the LORD has to do with either trivializing God or using God’s name for our own purposes, such as someone using Christianity as a way of swindling people. Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?

5. What are ways you can use your words to honor God?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Thank the LORD for creating you and rescuing you.

\*Pray for those you know who need to accept the LORD’s rescue plan for them.

\*Ask for the LORD’s forgiveness for those occasions when you have put your trust in anything other than him for meaning and direction in your life.

\*Ask the Holy Spirit daily to empower you to keep the LORD Jesus as the central focus of your life each day.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

The second and third commandments have to do with our relationship with the LORD and making sure that He alone is our focus. What will you do this week to keep Him in the center of your life? Are there any idols that need to be torn down?