

Names of Jesus

(Isaiah 9:6)

Pre-Session Warm Up

When you pray, do you ever end your prayer by saying, "in the name of Jesus"? Why do you do that? Have you ever wondered what that means exactly?

Today we're going to look at what Jesus' name means and what praying in His name is all about.

Opening Prayer

Lord, You are the King of kings and the Lord of lords. You are the creator of the universe and the author of our faith. There is no one like You! I ask You this morning, in the power of Your name, to open our spiritual understanding so that we might know You better and fall more in love with You. Help us to learn the lesson You want to teach us. In the power of Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)

Lesson

The third commandment is "*You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.*" The word *vain* means *worthless, useless, foolish, silly, without success or result, and in a disrespectful manner.*

What are some examples of using God's name in vain or disrespectful ways? [Teacher, let children respond.] Have you ever heard someone say, "*Oh my God*" just in the course of their conversation? That is a careless and useless way to use God's name.

The way we use God's name conveys how we really feel about Him.

We should respect his name and use it appropriately, speaking it in praise or worship rather than in curse or a disrespectful way.

What's in a name?

Today, people's names don't carry much meaning, but the people of Bible times took names very seriously. In those days a man's name represented his character. *Jesus* is a Greek form of the Hebrew name *Joshua*. It was a common name and means *the Lord saves*. Just as Joshua had led Israel into the Promised Land, so Jesus would lead His people into eternal life. Jesus' name stands for His power and authority to save us from Satan's power and to lead us into eternal life with Him. God's name is special because it carries His personal identity.

When you end your prayers "*in the name of Jesus*" what you are saying is, "*by the authority of Jesus.*" You are showing who gives the power and authority to do what you've asked for. What you're doing is telling God that you know that if He answers your prayer and gives you the desire of your heart, it won't happen in your own power; it will be God working through Jesus to accomplish what you've asked for.

It is in Jesus' name that people are healed, demons are banished, and sins are forgiven. You are not to use Jesus' name as magic; you are to use it in faith. Remember that it is Jesus himself, not merely the sound of His name, who gives our prayers their power.

Names for Messiah

Before Jesus was even born, Isaiah used five special names to describe the coming Messiah in Isaiah 9:6:

Name	Significance
Wonderful	<i>Wonderful</i> means <i>marvelous, astonishing, unusually good, admirable, supernaturally amazing</i> — beyond anything you've ever known before. Jesus is awesome and full of wonder. You could spend your whole life time learning about Jesus and He will never cease to amaze you.

Name	Significance
Counselor	A <i>counselor</i> is one that gives advice. Jesus never gives us bad advice. God's way is always perfect. He would never lead you to do a wrong thing.
Mighty God	God is all-powerful. He created the world by just speaking it into existence. There is nothing our God cannot do.
Everlasting Father	He is timeless; He had no beginning and He will have no end. He is God our Father; guarding us, supplying and caring for our needs. He's not like our earthly fathers who will sometimes let us down or disappoint us. He will never leave us nor forsake us. He always has our best interest in mind.
Prince of Peace	We can know His peace (Ephesians 2:13-18). In the middle of a hard time in life, we can draw upon the Lord for wholeness if we feel like we're just falling apart; prosperity if we feel like we're poor in spirit; and tranquility if we're anxious or angry and feeling agitated.

Because He is the Mighty God, He can be a true Father to His people, He can bring lasting peace, and He can give counsel that is truly wonderful.

Names and Titles of Jesus

There are hundreds of names for Jesus in the Bible. If a name says something about a person's character, what do these titles of Jesus mean to us? (Teacher, write these on the board.)

Name	Reference	Significance
Advocate	1 John 2:1	Like a legal defender, Jesus pleads our case before the Father.
Faithful and True	Rev 19:11	There is never any glitch in any of His other characteristics. He is always fair, merciful, full of grace, tenderhearted, etc.
Savior	Tit 3:6	He paid the price for our sin; He rescued us from the power of Satan and from the penalty of hell.
The way, the truth, and the life	John 14:6	There is no other way to be saved!

It's important to always use the name of God in a meaningful and respectful way. Next time you ask God for something and end your prayer by saying, "*in Jesus' name, Amen*" you are saying to God that because you know He is almighty, He is able to do whatever you ask. You know He can answer your prayer. And, because you know He is full of mercy and grace, he will answer your prayer if it is the best thing for you. You also know that because He loves you with a perfect love, you can trust that He will never give you anything that would be bad for you. So, if He doesn't give you what you're asking for, it could be that you're not ready for it or it's just not as good for you as you may think it might be.

In any case, He's a good God and He's well worth our praise and worship.

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You that You are so wonderful! I can't imagine what life would be like without knowing You. Thank You that You are a God that hears and answers prayers. Your ear is always bent towards us, listening to our prayers. And thank You that You are a God who loves to give Your children good things. It's wonderful being your kid, Lord. And, we look forward to being with You for all eternity in Heaven. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen!

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Have the children make a collage by writing the names of Jesus on a paper in creative ways using colorful markers, different sizes, etc.

Game Center

Use the following questions in a game of your choice:

1. In Bible times, what special significance did people's names have? (A man's name represented his character.)
2. What does the name "Jesus" mean? (The Lord Saves.)
3. What importance does Jesus' name have? (It stands for His power and authority to save us from Satan's power and to lead us into eternal life with Him.)
4. What are some of the names Isaiah used to describe Jesus? (Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.)
5. What does *Wonderful* mean and how does this describe Jesus? (Marvelous, amazing. Jesus is awesome in all His ways.)
6. What does *Counselor* mean and how does this describe Jesus? (One that gives advice. God's way is perfect.)
7. What does *Mighty God* mean and how does this describe Jesus? (All powerful. There is nothing God can not do. Jesus is able to do all we ask.)
8. What does *Everlasting Father* mean and how does this describe Jesus? (Timeless; Guardian. Before the beginning began, Jesus was! God supplies all our needs.)
9. What does *Prince of Peace* mean and how does this describe Jesus? (Jesus is our peace in every circumstance.)
10. What are some other names of Jesus? (*Advocate, Faithful and True, Savior, The way, the truth and the life.*)
11. When you pray in Jesus' name, what are you saying to God? (You know that He is able to do what you've asked and is willing to do it if it's the right thing for you.)

Names of Jesus

(Isaiah 9:6)

For unto _____ a _____ is born,

*Unto us a _____ is given... And His name
will be called*

_____, _____,
_____, _____
_____, _____ of
_____.