

May Your Name Be Kept Holy

(Matthew 6:9-13)

Pre-Session Warm Up

How many of you have heard someone use the name of our Lord in a negative way? How would you feel if your name were used this way? It's disrespectful; you'd be offended, wouldn't you!

The Bible tells us that the name of the Lord is holy, set apart, worthy of the highest praise. When we speak God's name, we should do so with honor.

Today we're going to learn how special God's name is and how we can worship God through prayer.

Opening Prayer

If the Queen of England was coming through here, and we wanted to show her respect and honor, we would bow as she passed by. Let's bow now before God to show Him honor today. [Teacher, you might kneel with the children, to pray.]

Father, we praise and worship Your name because You are holy. We love You and want to honor You today. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. (Matthew 6:9)

Lesson

[Teacher, before class look up the meanings of your student's names. Print them on slips of paper. (Bring a baby naming book to class in case you have a visitor.) Give each child a copy of the work sheet at the end of this lesson. Let them write their name. Then, read the meanings of each child's name aloud. See if children can guess which meaning goes with which name. Then pass out the slips of paper with

their name's meaning on it and instruct them to write that on their worksheet.]

- Does the meaning of your name describe who you are?
- Do you know why your parents chose your name?
- What name might describe you better?

Some parents choose names because they like the sound of the name, or because they want to name their child after someone special, like a relative or person from the Bible. Some parents choose names because it starts with a certain letter of the alphabet.

These days, people's names are little more than labels that help us tell one person from another. Sometimes nicknames are chosen which tell something about a person, but even these are a poor reflection of who the person really is.

In Bible times the meanings of names were very important. Names carried special significance. Parents chose a name for their child because of what it meant. A person's name identified them and stood for something specific.

Did you know that there are hundreds of names for God in the Bible? Let's see how many we can remember. [Teacher, start a list on the board and instruct them to write them on the work sheet. Then, have four children look up the following verses:]

Proverbs 18:10

*The name of the Lord is a **strong fortress**; the godly run to him and are safe.*

John 6:35

*Jesus replied, "I am **the bread of life**. Who ever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.*

John 8:12

*Then Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the **light of the world**. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."*

Isaiah 9:6

*For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.***

There are many other names for God. For example:

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|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| • Christ | • Messiah | • Savior |
| • Emmanuel
(God With Us) | • God Almighty | • God Who Sees Me |
| • Everlasting Father | • Prince of Peace | • Redeemer |
| • King of Kings | • Lord of Lords | • Bridegroom |
| • Lamb of God | • Rock | • The Way, the Truth and the Life |
| • The Lord is My Shepherd | • Alpha and Omega (the beginning and the end) | • Creator |

Why do you think God has different names?

To many the names *God* or *Lord* say little about God's character, His ways, His power and His authority. That's why the Bible God reveals His names to His people rather than allowing them to choose names for Him. He wanted people to know what He is really like.

Keep His Name Holy

We have been learning about the Lord's Prayer. Last week we learned that we start the prayer by calling upon "*Our Father in heaven.*"

Next, we learn that it's important to keep His name holy.

Matthew 6:9

Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy.

- What do you think "*holy*" means? (Holy means "*set apart.*")
- Can you give any examples of something that is holy? What is something that is very special that you should treat with respect? (Mom's special china?)
- What does it mean to say that God's name is holy?

That means that His name is to be kept special. When you pray, quiet yourself and think about how great God is. Then begin your prayer by honoring God's name. Pray, "*Father, we admire You, we adore You, You are wonderful, excellent and marvelous. You deserve our praise... We honor Your holy name.*"

It's important for you to remember Who you're talking to. Think about it. You're talking to the creator of the whole universe! He's all-knowing, all-wise, and all-powerful; He has more power than any other being. He can answer your prayers! Having this in your mind when you begin praying, gives you confidence.

God is perfect and pure. We should be amazed at how holy he is! It's only right that we give him honor and respect.

The Bible tells us about a man named David. Before David killed Goliath and became famous, he was a shepherd boy. It was his job to take the sheep out on the range to eat and fatten up. Sometimes he was out there all alone for long periods of time. It must have been lonely out there for him; there was no radio or TV to keep him company.

And, it was dangerous work, too, because often wild animals would come and attack the sheep. He'd have to be brave and fight off lions and coyote.

He must have spent his quiet hours looking around at the beautiful world that God has made – the trees, and the sun, and the moon and the stars. To fill up the lonely hours in the night, he would play a harp and sing songs. Most of his songs were prayers to God. In some of his songs he asks God for help. Some songs tell others about how great God is. Other songs are prayers of worship, telling God how wonderful and holy He is. Many of David's songs are written down in our Bibles in the book of Psalms.

Psalm 100 [Teacher, read...]

Shout with joy to the LORD, all the earth! (2) Worship the LORD with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy. (3) Acknowledge that the LORD is God! He made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture. (4) Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name. (5) For the LORD is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.

- How did David worship God? (He shouted with joy; worshipped with gladness, came singing with joy...)
- Which of these things do you do as you pray to God?
- What words or phrases in this psalm remind us that God is holy or that he should be honored? (Lord is God! He made us, He's good, His love is unfailing; He is faithful.)
- What can we learn from David's example?

Make a Joyful Noise

Psalm 149:1

Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song. Sing his praises in the assembly of the faithful.

Let's practice worshipping God with prayer songs. A prayer of worship, like Psalm 100, should tell God how great he is, just as a cheer for your favorite sports team would. A prayer of worship is not a

prayer where we list all the things we need. It's a way of telling God we think He's the best! Look at Psalm 148 to get some ideas. Think of what words and actions you could do to show God how much you love Him.

[Teacher, divide the children into small groups. Encourage older children to partner with younger ones. Have each group write a prayer of worship and then share it with the other groups.

Encourage kids to be creative. Suggest that they consider setting their prayer to music (they might use a popular tune and write new words to it), creating a rap or cheer, or writing a prayer they would all whisper together. They could also add dance steps and/or hand motions to it. Remind the children that they can use some of the names of God in their prayers too.

Remind them that even though they're letting the others hear their prayer, they are really speaking to God. After each group has shared its prayer of worship, gather kids together.]

- Did these prayer songs help you worship God?
- How do you think God feels when He hears these prayers?
- How do you feel expressing these thoughts to God?
- Could you offer as much praise and worship to God if He wasn't holy? Why or why not?

The prayers of David and the prayers you all have shared remind us that we can worship God through prayer.

Closing Prayer

[Teacher, have all the children stand in a circle holding hands or linking elbows.]

We've learned that God is holy and that we can worship God when we pray. Let's worship God now by using some of His names that we learned today.

Our Father in heaven, may Your name be kept holy. We praise You and worship You because You are holy. Your names tell us how special You are and how much we should honor You. Your name is worthy of all our praise. You're the bread of life, the light of the world, a strong fortress. You are Emmanuel, God With Us. You're The God Who Sees. You're the Almighty One. Help us to remember to always keep Your name holy. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

Use the questions contained in the lesson in a game of your choice.

What's in a Name?

My Name: _____

The meaning of my name: _____

A few names of God:

Our Father in haven (Matthew 6:9)

Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)

King of Glory (Psalm 24:7)

Shepherd of Israel (Psalm 80:1)

