

Names of God: Lessons One

This is part one of a new series we're calling, "***Hello, My Name Is... A Series on the Names of God.***"

Lesson One: What's In a Name?

Main Idea: We learn more about God when we learn about his different names and titles. God's Word is clear about how we are to treat his name.

Memory Verse: "Those who know your name trust in you, for you, O LORD, do not abandon those who search for you." Psalm 9:10

Teacher Preparation:

- Take time to meditate on this lesson and apply it to your own life. Have you ever put much thought into how names and titles impact what we know? For example, when a man has the term "Junior" at the end of his name, it is safe to assume he is named after his father. How do you think knowing the names of God will change your relationship with him?

Scripture References:

- John 17:3
- Exodus 20:7
- Leviticus 19:12
- Psalm 139:20
- Romans 2:23-24
- Psalm 20:7
- Proverbs 18:10
- Romans 10:13
- Psalm 9:10
- Isaiah 43:1

Message: Today class, we are starting a new study about the names and titles of God. God goes by a lot of different names and titles in the Bible. Today we'll talk about the importance of names in the Bible and over the next many weeks, we'll look at some of the more well-known names and titles of God. God has a lot of names and titles in the Bible! We're only going to study a few of them.

So I've been saying "names and titles." We all know what a name is, right? It's what people call you. My name is Mrs. Tara. You all know that! But did you know not everyone calls me Mrs. Tara? What do you think my son calls me? That's right, my son calls me mommy. My husband calls me wife, and my brother calls me his sister. We can sometimes go by different names to different people. We can even have nicknames. James can go by Jim or Jamie, and Amelia can go by Amy. What are some other names you may go by? You may be called friend, cousin, sister, brother, grandchild, student, or son or daughter.

Well we know about names, but what do we know about titles? What is a title? A title is a descriptive name given to a piece of art, like a book or a song or a painting. A title tells us a little bit about the book, song or artwork. What is the title of your favorite book? (discuss how the title tells you a little about the book. For example, "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe" is about a Lion, a witch, and a wardrobe.) You all have great tastes in books! So forms of art have titles, and did you know that people also can have titles? Sometimes you call me teacher. We call our pastor, Pastor Smith. When a police officer introduces themselves, they say, "Hello, I'm Officer Brown." Judges are introduced as the honorable judge so-and-so, and doctors work hard in school for a very long time to earn their title of doctor.

So throughout this study, we will learn that God has many names and titles he goes by. All of these names and titles help us understand more about Him. Knowing God is the absolute most important thing we could ever do in life. Don't get me wrong, you need to do your homework and learn math and science and reading and history. But none of that matters unless you know God and follow his commands in the Bible. Let's have a sword drill to show us that. Take all bookmarks and fingers out of your Bible and hold them above your head. When I say go, look up John 17:3. "And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth." The only way we will get to live forever in Heaven is by knowing God and knowing Jesus. That's why learning the names and titles of God is so important. We are going to look at the importance of God's name. We should boast in His name, and we should not take his name in vain.

Verses on how not to treat God's name:

- "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
- "Do not bring shame on the name of your God by using it to swear falsely. I am the LORD." Leviticus 19:12
- "They blaspheme you; your enemies misuse your name." Psalm 139:20

- "You are so proud of knowing the law, but you dishonor God by breaking it. No wonder the Scriptures say, 'The Gentiles blaspheme the name of God because of you.'" Romans 2:23-24

Verses on how to treat the name of God:

- "Some nations boast of their chariots and horses, but we boast in the name of the LORD our God." Psalm 20:7
- "The name of the LORD is a strong fortress; the godly run to him and are safe." Proverbs 18:10
- "For 'Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.'" Romans 10:13
- "Those who know your name trust in you, for you, O LORD, do not abandon those who search for you." Psalm 9:10

So we see that God's name is like a special treasure that we must respect. We disrespect God when we swear, and misuse his name, or pretend to be Christians when we really aren't. (Make a list on the board of the ways we can disrespect God's name. If time allows, have the class come up with more examples of disrespecting God's name.) We show God that we love and respect him when we praise him, turn to his name for safety, trust in his name, and call on his name for salvation. When we trust in God's name and call on his name, he will save us from our sins and we will get to spend all of forever with him!

As we go through the next several weeks learning some of the better known names of God, I want you to keep Psalm 9:10 in mind. "Those who know your name trust in you, for you, O LORD, do not abandon those who search for you." This will be our memory verse for this unit of study. We can trust that God is with us as we work to learn some of His names and titles. Before we close in prayer, I have one more verse to leave you with. In Isaiah 43:1, God tells us, "Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine." God knows our name. He knows everything about us and, my friends, he loves us very, very much. He loves us so much that he sent his only and only son, Jesus, to live a perfect life and to die on the cross for us, to save us from our sins. As we study the many names of God, let's not forget that he knows each and every one of our names. Let's pray and thank God for loving us enough to die for us, and for teaching us about himself through his many names and titles.

Close in prayer.

“Shepherd / Lamb of God” Names of God

This lesson is part of a series we’re calling, “***Hello, My Name Is... A Series on the Names of God.***”

Main Idea: The Good Shepherd takes wonderful care of us, his sheep, by providing the Lamb of God to take the punishment for our sins.

Memory Verse: “There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12

Teacher Preparation:

- Read lesson, Scripture references, Ezekiel 34:11-23, John 10:1-18
- Take time to meditate on this lesson and apply it to your own life. The Good Shepherd is one of the most commonly known names of God. On the surface, this name brings comfort and joy. As you dive deeper into the Scriptures concerning the Shepherd, his name begins to evoke deep humility and wonder at the abounding grace of God. The Shepherd became the Sacrificial Lamb. How deep is the love of God for us! Take time today to praise God for coming in the flesh to save us, to save you. As you prepare to lead your class in discovering the attributes of the Shepherd, take some time to meditate on the different roles of a shepherd, and of the Shepherd. Consider how you can better know the Shepherd’s voice and follow him.

Scripture References:

- Isaiah 40:10-11
- Psalm 23
- John 10:11
- Isaiah 53:6-7
- Psalm 119:176
- Mark 12:30-31

Message: Open in prayer, then say, today’s name of God is one I am sure you have all heard of. Even many people who never go to church have heard of this name. This is one of those titles of God that people really love. We’ll find out why soon. First let’s take some time to review the names of God we have already learned. You have all learned so much about the names of God! God is our strong creator. He has always existed and always will. He is

our Lord and our Father. He is Jealous for us, and fills us with Perfect Peace. He is the King, our Rock, and the Judge. I find knowing all these names to be pretty humbling. It makes me feel small to see how BIG God is. That's not a bad thing either. We are really, really, REALLY tiny compared to God. But you know what, he loves us so, so much. God loves us and takes care of us. The God who made everything and existed from before time began and rules over all creation, cares for us. That's what today's name is all about. Let's turn to Isaiah 40:10-11 to learn about this name. "Yes, the Sovereign Lord is coming in power. He will rule with a powerful arm. See, he brings his reward with him as he comes. He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young."

What is the name of God we find in this passage? God is our Shepherd. What does a shepherd do? A shepherd takes care of sheep. So if God is our shepherd, what does that make us? Yes, we are the sheep. Have you all ever seen sheep? What are they like? Sheep are not the most magnificent creatures to be compared to. Sheep get lost really easily, and can't find their way back home. Sometimes their woolly selves get stuck in brambles and branches, and they can't move until the shepherd cuts them out. Sometimes, when it's getting close to time for the sheep to be sheered, their wool can get so heavy that sheep fall over onto their backs. And then they can't get back up. They are stuck until the shepherd can come and help them up. If they fall into water, they could drown! Sheep will also follow the sheep that they think is the smartest. Sometimes that sheep can lead them the wrong way. And sheep can be very stubborn. They try to run away from the shepherd and don't always follow him like they are supposed to. Sheep also don't have any sharp claws or fangs. They can't puff themselves up to look mean and scary. They can't even roar to scare off a predator. They can't defend themselves at all! Are you starting to get the picture? We are like sheep. We follow other sheep, I mean people, when we should be following God. We can't protect ourselves from danger really, we don't know where we're going in life without God, and when we fall down in sin, only God can pick us back up again.

It is comforting to read in Isaiah 40:10-11 that God is a powerful shepherd. I love how it says God will hold us close to his heart and lead us gently. As we have been learning for months, God is very, very powerful. That fact that the Strong Creator, the King, the Judge, is also our loving, gentle, Shepherd, is just awesome. It's amazing. Can you picture what this looks like? Not too long ago, I bought my two year old son a little, fluffy, stuffed sheep. As soon as he saw it, he scooped it up in his arms and exclaimed, "I love it!" He carried and cuddled that sheep close to his heart. He cared for it and took it

with him everywhere in his arms. This is the sort of love God shows us. The Good Shepherd loves his sheep.

Let's look at the most famous passage about God as our shepherd. Turn with me to Psalm 23. This Psalm was written by David. You know, the most famous king of Israel. Did you know that before he was a king, he was a shepherd? So when he wrote Psalm 23, which I am about to read to you, he knew exactly what it meant to be a good shepherd. As I read, I want you to follow along in your Bibles and imagine what it would be like to a sheep in this song. (Read Psalm 23 with good inflection, trying to emphasize what it would feel like to be a sheep.)

"The Lord is my shepherd;
I have all that I need.

² He lets me rest in green meadows;
he leads me beside peaceful streams.

³ He renews my strength.
He guides me along right paths,
bringing honor to his name.

⁴ Even when I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will not be afraid,
for you are close beside me.
Your rod and your staff
protect and comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a feast for me
in the presence of my enemies.
You honor me by anointing my head with oil.
My cup overflows with blessings.

⁶ Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me
all the days of my life,
and I will live in the house of the Lord
forever."

Let's go through it together and find all the things God does for us as our Shepherd. Start with verse one. "The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need." God provides everything we need. Verse two tells us that God gives us rest in green meadows. A green meadow is a paradise for sheep! When life gets busy, we can turn to our Shepherd for rest and peace. In verse three we learn that the Shepherd renews our strength. When we are weak, he makes us strong. He also guides us in the way we should go, and God is glorified when we are doing what we are supposed to be doing. In verse four we learn that we never have to be afraid, because God is always with us.

The Shepherd is close by us, keeping us safe and making us brave. The last part of this verse says, "Your rod and staff protect and comfort me." A shepherd's rod and staff are what he uses to make the sheep behave and to keep them safe. A rod is a big stick that a shepherd could use to either beat off wolves and bears that would try to eat the sheep, or he could use it to smack the sheep to keep them from getting into dangerous situations. A smack isn't any fun, but it keeps the sheep from possibly dying. In the Bible, the staff is often seen as a symbol of authority. The shepherd is in charge of the sheep. A shepherd's staff is curved on the end, like an upside down J, or a candy cane. The shepherd would loop the curved part around a sheep's neck to pull them back to safety. When God the Good Shepherd disciplines us, when he uses his rod and staff, we are protected and comforted. Verse five basically describes a party. We can celebrate because our Shepherd not only provides everything we need, but he gives us MORE than we need. Anointing our heads with oil is a symbol of celebration and joy. It means that God loves us. Our lives overflow with the blessings of God. Verse six sums it all up. God's goodness and his unfailing love will follow us our whole lives, and when we follow the Shepherd, we will live with him forever.

That is quite a long list of ways that God is our Good Shepherd! Turn to John 10:11. Go! "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep." Jesus is the one talking in this verse. We just read a whole psalm and a verse in Isaiah that tell us how God is the Good Shepherd. So here Jesus is saying he is the Good Shepherd. So what does that mean? This means that Jesus is God. Jesus is the Shepherd that Psalm 23 talks about!

Jesus is our Good Shepherd. Back in Isaiah 53:6-7, the Bible talks about Jesus in a different way. Listen to this. (Read Isaiah 53:7) "All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all. He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth." We already learned today that we are like sheep. Sometimes, like sheep, we disobey our Shepherd. We sin and don't follow God. But instead of punishing us, Jesus took our punishments himself. He is our Great Shepherd, but he became a sheep. God came down as the man Jesus Christ. As Isaiah 53:7 says, He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth." When Jesus was arrested, he never complained. He never argued. He let himself get beat up and teased before he was crucified. Just like a sheep who is going to be sheared of his wool and then killed, Jesus never tried to get out of being crucified, because he knew that when HE died, WE would be saved.

God is so amazing. When people think of God as their shepherd, they think of Psalm 23 and all the wonderful things we listed on the board. Let's not forget that our Shepherd became the Lamb of God, and saved us of our sins. The Good Shepherd takes wonderful care of us, his sheep, by providing the Lamb of God to take the punishment for our sins.

Psalm 119:176 tells us, "I have wandered away like a lost sheep; come and find me, for I have not forgotten your commands." Jesus, our Shepherd, will always save us from our sins, because we remember his commands to love God and love our neighbors. (Mark 12:30-31.)

Close in prayer.

"Refuge / Fortress" Names of God

This lesson is part of a series we're calling, "***Hello, My Name Is... A Series on the Names of God.***"

Main Idea: When we trust in God our strong refuge and fortress, he keeps us safe in scary situations and saves us from our sins!

Memory Verse: "There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

Teacher Preparation:

- Read lesson, Scripture references, Psalm 91, Psalm 31, Nahum 1:7, Proverbs 14:26-27, and 2 Samuel 22:1-4

Scripture References:

- Proverbs 18:10
- Psalm 46:1-2
- Psalm 31:19-20
- John 3:16
- Psalm 62:5-8
- Psalm 91:1-4, 10a, 14-16
- Psalm 28:7

Message: Open in prayer, then say, can you believe how much we have learned about God through this study on his names? We have learned that God is our strong creator. He has always existed and always will. He is our Lord and our Father. He is Jealous for us, and fills us with Perfect Peace. He is our King, our Rock, our Judge and our Shepherd. Every time we learn a new name or title for God, we learn more about who God is and about how he loves us. Today we will hear some awesome descriptions of God.

Tell me, what do you do when you are scared? Or, what do you *want* to do when you are scared? (Allow students to answer. Be sure your class remains considerate and accepting as their friends answer. If a student says they cry when they are scared, there is no reason for others to laugh. Model good listening skills and give supportive feedback as your students share. If need be, gently remind the students that your class is a safe place to share feelings without the fear of being judged or laughed at. Only loving words are allowed in your class.) Thank you all for sharing what you do when you are scared. Sometimes being scared makes us scream or cry. Or we may want our parents. We may hide or run away. Today we will learn how God wants us to react when we are scared or in trouble or sad or... anytime, really!

Let's have a sword drill to discover what God wants us to do when we feel scared or in trouble or in danger. Take all fingers and bookmarks out of your Bible and hold them above your heads. When I say go, turn to Proverbs 18:10. "The name of the LORD is a strong fortress; the godly run to him and are safe."

When we are scared, we sometimes want to run. Well the place to run is to God! When we trust in God, he keeps us safe. The first part of this verse says, "The name of the LORD is a strong fortress." When it says "The name of the LORD," it doesn't just mean what we call God. It means God's reputation, his character. In all the studying we have done on the names of God, we have learned a whole lot about him. When we are scared or nervous or even a little unsure, remembering what God is like and running to him will keep us safe.

What does it feel like to be safe? What do you do when you know you are safe? When you feel safe, you feel like you can do anything! You feel strong and confident and brave. This is exactly how everyone who believes in God should feel. Psalm 46:1-2 says, "God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. So we will not fear when earthquakes come and the mountains crumble into the sea." Even when the world is literally falling apart, God is our refuge. He will help us.

So let's stop to think for a minute. What is a strong fortress? When you think of a fortress, you probably think of a great big castle, with huge, thick stone walls surrounded by a moat, and a tall tower right in the center of the walls. That tower was the safest place to be if enemies attacked. That is the sort of thing you should picture when you think of God as a strong fortress. He is the absolute safest place to be in times of trouble. A refuge is the same sort of idea. A refuge is any safe place. It can be a castle, or your home or school, or even an umbrella when you're outside in the rain. A refuge is where you go to stay safe. God is our refuge and our strong fortress. He keeps us safe.

Let's look at Psalm 31:19-20. "How great is the goodness you have stored up for those who fear you. You lavish it on those who come to you for protection, blessing them before the watching world. You hide them in the shelter of your presence, safe from those who conspire against them. You shelter them in your presence, far from accusing tongues." There's a lot going on in these two verses. Let me sum it up for you. When we fear God, he protects us and keeps us safe from our enemies. He does this because he is the good and loving God.

When this passage says "fear" God, it does not mean that God is scary to us. Think about all the names of God we have learned lately and what all those names mean. Think about how very God is. It makes me feel so very tiny. I can't even wrap my brain around how awesome God is. He is so perfectly holy. And we are sinners. We have no right to run to God for safety. But because God loves us, he sent his one and only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins, so we can run to God and live forever in heaven with him! We hear that all the time in church. John 3:16 says, "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

Listen closely, because this is so important. We can't let the wonderful truth of God's love for us just start sounding like meaningless nonsense. To fear God means to remember the truth. We don't deserve to know God. We can never, ever, EVER earn the right or be good enough to run to God for safety. But because he loves us so much, he wants us to run to him. To fear God is to worship him with a holy reverence, a holy and special respect that we have for God and God alone.

It is so easy to make other things in our lives more important than God. We get distracted by our school work, or our swim meet, or our family camping trip. These things are all great, but nowhere near as great as God. And none of these things can save us.

Turn with me to Psalm 62:5-8. Please follow along as I read. "Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for my hope is in him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will not be shaken. My victory and honor come from God alone. He is my refuge, a rock where no enemy can reach me. O my people, trust in him at all times. Pour out your heart to him, for God is our refuge." Only God is our rock. Only God is our salvation. Only God is our fortress. Only God is our refuge. God is the only one who can keep us safe, and more importantly, God is the only one who can save us. He saves us when we put our hope in him, when we trust in him. It's such a good reminder to wait quietly. When I am scared, when I feel like enemies are attacking me, the last thing I want to do is wait quietly. But this is exactly what God wants us to do. When we trust in him, our hearts can be calm and he will keep us safe.

We're about to wrap up but first I have to make something clear. Only God keeps us safe, and sometimes he uses people we love to help. If you are being bullied by a kid at school, or if there is ever a situation anywhere, ever, where you feel uncomfortable or unsafe, then TELL AN ADULT YOU TRUST. Yes, pray about the situation and know that God is listening to you and protecting you. God can use the adults in your life to help keep you safe. I am a safe adult. Your parents are safe adults. If you ever feel unsafe, please, please, talk to us and let us pray with you and help you.

Let's look at Psalm 91:1-4. "Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty. This I declare about the Lord: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him. For he will rescue you from every trap and protect you from deadly disease. He will cover you with his feathers. He will shelter you with his wings. His faithful promises are your armor and protection." It says that God will rescue us from every trap and protect us from every deadly disease. I have heard people say that this means if we trust God, we will never get sick or hurt. Now that simply isn't true. Christians get sick too, and we get hurt and have bad things happen to us and we sometimes feel unsafe. The important thing is, the bad things don't win. The first part of verse ten of this Psalm says, "No evil will conquer you." This means that in the end, God wins! Psalm 91 ends like this: "The LORD says, "I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name. When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue and honor them. I will reward them with a long life and give them my salvation." If we trust in God and call on him to help us, then he will save us from our sins and let us live forever with him! Doesn't that make you want to shout and jump for joy?

Psalm 28:7 says, "The LORD is my strength and shield. I trust him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy. I burst out in songs of thanksgiving." We can burst out in songs on praise and thankfulness, because when we trust in God our strong refuge and fortress, he keeps us safe in scary situations and saves us from our sins!

Close in prayer.

"Judge / Intercessor" Names of God

This lesson is part of a series we're calling, "***Hello, My Name Is... A Series on the Names of God.***"

Main Idea: God is perfectly righteous and he demands perfect justice. The Judge has given us a way to be forgiven of our guilt through Jesus Christ.

Memory Verse: "There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

Teacher Preparation:

- Read lesson, Scripture references, Romans 2:1-8, Revelation 20:11-15, Acts 10:42
- Take time to meditate on this lesson and apply it to your own life. Does thinking about God as a judge make you squirm? Surely you have heard people say, "Don't judge me. Only God can judge me." But do we submit to God's just judgements of us? Often when one says, "Don't judge me," it is with the almost subconscious thought that God's judgement will be that we are doing just fine, that we are only human and don't have to own up to our sins. This is of course not the case. Jeremiah 17:9-10 says, "The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? But I, the Lord, search all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve." I am not preaching a gospel of works. We can never do enough to please God. My actions are that of an impatient, prideful, woefully independent sinner. But there is one action that matters above all else. I have accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior. Because of this, because of Christ's blood, I am deemed righteous. Because of Jesus interceding for me, I am acquitted by the judge of all my sins. Dear teacher, take time and pray. Have you taken that step of acceptance? Do you trust Jesus with your life? It is through Christ that we live and move and exist. (Acts 17:28.) Praise the Judge for taking away your guilt.

Scripture References:

- Isaiah 33:22
- Isaiah 40:23
- Psalm 9:19-20
- Jeremiah 1:16
- Ecclesiastes 12:14
- Romans 6:23a
- Hebrews 7:25
- Micah 7:18

Message: Open in prayer, then say, before we start, let's take some time to review. (Quickly go over your memory verses and the flashcards with the names of God from the previous lessons to help refresh your students' memories.) We have learned a lot about God over the past several weeks! The more we know him, the more we love him. I find comfort in knowing all the different names of God and all the different roles he plays in my life. Today's title for God however, makes some people uncomfortable. It makes some people cringe and squirm in their seats and stop listening. Are you curious what that name is? Turn with me to Isaiah 33:22 to find out what it is. "For the Lord is our judge, our lawgiver, and our king. He will care for us and save us." Today's name of God is judge. What is a judge? a judge is someone who decides cases in a court. The judge's job is to listen to all sides of a story and decide what really happened. The ancient Hebrew word for judge is shophet. Shophet is such a cool word. Like many Hebrew words, it loses some of its meaning when you translate it into English. We say shophet means judge, and it does. But the ancient Jews, the people who followed God and spoke Hebrew, would define "judge" differently than we do today. A judge wasn't just someone who decided cases in a court. A judge was a leader. The judge was in charge, like a king. You know in the Bible we have the book of Judges. It's about people like Samson and Gideon, who were leaders of the Israelites. Before Israel had kings, they had judges. Let's read Isaiah 33:22 again. "For the Lord is our judge, our lawgiver, and our king. He will care for us and save us." Judge, lawgiver, and king. All these titles pretty much fit in the idea of shophet.

Don't miss the most important part. It says, "He will care for us and save us." Let's see for ourselves what the Bible has to say about God's judgement. Read Isaiah 40:23. Jeremiah 1:16.

(Isaiah 40:23 says, "He judges the great people of the world and brings them all to nothing.") It means that all rulers, kings and presidents will be judged by God, and they will find out that they are not the greatest thing

since sliced bread. Sometimes being in charge can go to your head, and God the Judge will humble prideful people.

Psalm 9:19-20. ("Arise, O Lord! Do not let mere mortals defy you! Judge the nations! Make them tremble in fear, O Lord. Let the nations know they are merely human.") God will judge countries and show that it's just a group of people all living in the same place and the same time. Only God's kingdom will last forever. "God judges nations and shows them they won't last forever.

Jeremiah 1:16 to us. ("I will pronounce judgment on my people for all their evil—for deserting me and burning incense to other gods. Yes, they worship idols made with their own hands!") This verse tells us that we, the people who say we love God, will be judged for saying we love him and then not following him.

We see that God judges everyone. He judges nations and rulers and us. That is WHO God judges. Now let's look at HOW God judges. Let's have a sword drill. Take all fingers and bookmarks out of your Bibles and hold them above your heads. When I say go, turn to Psalm 96:10-13. Go! "Tell all the nations, 'The Lord reigns!' The world stands firm and cannot be shaken. He will judge all peoples fairly. Let the heavens be glad, and the earth rejoice! Let the sea and everything in it shout his praise! Let the fields and their crops burst out with joy! Let the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord, for he is coming! He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with justice, and the nations with his truth." So this verse tells us three ways God will judge the world. Can anyone tell me? God will judge fairly, with justice and with his truth. God is not a mean judge. He will always be fair, righteous, and truthful, because that's who he is. God is always fair, always righteous and always truthful. He will judge us based on what we do. The Bible says so in Ecclesiastes 12:14. "God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad."

God will judge us for everything we do. Everything? Even the sins I do in secret when there are no other people around? I deserve to be punished for my sins. Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death." Shophet, God the Judge, will judge everyone fairly, justly and truthfully. And the truth is, I deserve to die for my sins. I deserve to be cut off from God forever. But God loves us. He wants to be with us forever. So he sent his son Jesus to die for us. Jesus lived a perfect life and never sinned. He's the only one who can be judged by God and found righteous, because he is God. But still Jesus died on the cross. He took the punishment that we deserve so we don't have to be punished. And after he died on the cross, he came back to life! Jesus is

alive and he will live forever. Because of this, Hebrews 7:25 says, "Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf." This means that when we believe in the Gospel—that Jesus died and rose again to save us from our sins—Jesus goes to God the judge for us and takes our punishment.

That was God's plan all along. Micah 7:18 says, "Where is another God like you, who pardons the guilt of the remnant, overlooking the sins of his special people? You will not stay angry with your people forever, because you delight in showing unfailing love." God delights in showing us unfailing love.

Picture this. You rob a bank and are arrested. You appear before the judge and he finds you guilty. Your punishment is to pay back all the money you stole and to go to jail for ten years. As you are being taken away to jail, the judge stands up and says he will pay what you owe. He will go to jail for ten years for you and you are free to go. You are forgiven. That is a small picture of what God did for us. God is perfectly righteous and he demands perfect justice. The Judge has given us a way to be forgiven of our guilt through Jesus Christ. So we don't have to be uncomfortable when we think of God as the judge. We can rejoice that he loves us enough to judge us, and save us from the punishment we deserve!

Close in prayer.

"Lord of Hosts/ King/ King of Kings" Names of God

This lesson is part of a series we're calling, "***Hello, My Name Is... A Series on the Names of God.***"

Main Idea: God the King is in charge of everything in the Universe, and when we believe in Jesus the King of Kings, he makes us princes and princesses.

Memory Verse: "Those who know your name trust in you, for you, O LORD, do not abandon those who search for you." Psalm 9:10

Teacher Preparation:

- Read lesson, Scripture references, and Daniel 3, Philippians 4:13, John 12:14, Psalm 80, Psalm 84
- Take time to meditate on this lesson and apply it to your own life. This seems like a lesson we teach to kids, but don't necessarily apply to our lives. We say that Jesus is king, but I know I rarely reflect upon what it means to give him my allegiance. Calling myself a princess seems almost arrogant, but it's the truth. We are royalty, and we are so very loved by the King. I get so busy in this life that the hope of the King establishing his kingdom gets pushed to the back of my mind. Make no mistake, the Lord will return, and his kingdom will forever reign! Let's live each day in the light of this great truth.

Scripture References:

- Psalm 99:1
- Isaiah 66:1-2a
- Daniel 4:37
- Psalm 80:19
- Romans 5:8
- 1 Chronicles 11:19
- Revelation 19:16
- Galatians 3:26

Message: Open in prayer, then say, today we are almost halfway through our study of the names of God, and today we will learn three new names! Before we continue, let's take a few minutes to review what we have learned. See, I knew you have all worked hard to learn the names of God and what they mean for our lives! Let's turn in our Bibles to Psalm 99:1 to learn about our first name of the day. "The Lord is king! Let the nations tremble! He sits on his throne between the cherubim. Let the whole earth quake!"

This one is pretty straightforward, and one I am sure you have all heard before. God is the king of everything in the whole universe. Isaiah 66:1-2 says, "This is what the Lord says: 'Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Could you build me a temple as good as that? Could you build me

such a resting place? My hands have made both heaven and earth; they and everything in them are mine, I, the Lord, have spoken!” God is king. His kingly throne is heaven and he rests his feet on the earth. Maybe not literally, but this gives us a picture of how big God is and how very, very little we on our tiny planet are.

It’s so easy to forget that God is the king. We see kings and presidents and principals and bosses and all sorts of rulers, all sorts of people in charge here on earth. I sometimes get so caught up in living my busy life that I forget who is really in charge of this world. It isn’t any president, prime minister or king. It is God, and God only! A king is someone who is in charge of a kingdom or country, who makes rules and laws and who takes care of the people in his kingdom. The Bible and all of history is full of good and bad kings. Even King David, the best king Israel ever had, wasn’t perfect. God is the only perfect king, because he is GOD.

A lot of earthly kings want to be worshiped, but only God the King deserves our praise. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, made that mistake once. King Nebuchadnezzar is the king in the book of Daniel who made a huge statue of himself and told everyone to worship it. Do you remember Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? (Have students retell the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego with you filling in the parts they miss. This story is found in Daniel 3. Just hit the high points to refresh their memories or to introduce the basics: The king wanted everyone to bow down and worship the giant statue of himself, but three Jews, who worship God, refused. God saved them from the fiery furnace and the king was amazed at God.) So as you can see, King Nebuchadnezzar thought a lot of himself. He thought he was the best king ever, all by his own strength. God warned him not to brag, but he did anyway. So long story short, God punished the king. Nebuchadnezzar went crazy for a while, and when God restored his sanity, the king said, “Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and glorify and honor the King of heaven. All his acts are just and true, and he is able to humble the proud.” (Daniel 4:37.) As King Nebuchadnezzar learned, Yahweh the King is the only King worthy of our worship, and no one can ever take his crown away.

But why is God the only one we should praise, the only King we should follow? Let’s have a sword drill to find out. Take all fingers and bookmarks out of your Bibles. When I say go, turn to Psalm 80:19. “Turn us again to yourself, O Lord God of Heaven’s Armies. Make your face shine down upon us. Only then will we be saved.” We learn two things from this verse. One is that we can never work hard enough or be good enough to make God happy. The only way to be right with God is for God to turn to us. Yes, we

have to repent of our sins and believe in God and follow him. But none of that would do us any good if God stayed angry with us. God chooses to love us and chooses to forgive us, even before we say we're sorry for our sins. Romans 5:8 says, "But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners." Our King loves us enough to send his very own son to die for us, even before we repented. That is why we worship God, and only God.

The second thing we learn from Psalm 80:19 is another name of God. "Lord God of Heaven's Armies." This Psalm calls God the "Lord God of Heaven's Armies." A lot of translations say the "Lord of Hosts," meaning the hosts, or armies of angels in heaven. Basically, it means God is in charge! He has armies of angels at his command. God is so big and so strong, and he still loves us most of all. Remember we mentioned King David earlier? God loved King David. The Bible says in 1 Chronicles 11:19, "And David became more and more powerful, because the Lord of Heaven's Armies was with him." David was a powerful and good king because he trusted God. God made him strong, and the Lord of Heaven's Armies makes us strong when we trust in him. (Philippians 4:13)

Now for our last name of God for today. Follow along with me as I read from Zechariah 9:9. "Rejoice, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey— riding on a donkey's colt." Who is this verse talking about? This verse is about Jesus, when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. (John 12:14.) When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, he fulfilled this prophecy in Zechariah made about him hundreds of years earlier. He was proclaiming to everyone that he is the king, that he is God! Revelation 19:16 says, "On his robe at his thigh was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords." Jesus is the King of kings. This means he is the ruler in charge of all the rulers in all the world, for all of time.

Now here is my very favorite part. What do we call the children of a king? A king's children are called princes and princesses. Now let's finish up with a sword drill, because I want everyone to read this. Turn to Galatians 3:26. "For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus." Do you guys get this? When we believe in Jesus, when we repent of our sins and God forgives us, we become princes and princesses! God, the King, makes us his very own children! We are royalty. And we have a very big responsibility to the King of Kings. We need to tell everyone about God's love! God wants everyone to become princes and princesses. So as we pray, I want you to quietly, to yourselves, pray for one person you can talk to about Jesus this

week. Pray that they would get to know Jesus so they too can be children of the King!

Close in prayer.

“Rock/Cornerstone” Names of God

Lessons for Childrens

This lesson is part of a series we’re calling, “***Hello, My Name Is... A Series on the Names of God***”

Main Idea: God the Rock is our place of safety. Jesus is the cornerstone and we are the living stones that build the church.

Memory Verse: “There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12

Teacher Preparation:

- Read lesson, Scripture references, Psalm 92:12-15, Isaiah 17:1-11, Isaiah 26:4, Psalm 95:1-5, and Psalm 62:2
- Take time to meditate on this lesson and apply it to your own life. Psalm 94:14 says, “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.” God, our Rock, is our place of safety. He is the one to whom we should run when times get tough. So often though, instead of turning to the Rock of my salvation, I complain and grumble and forget to be thankful. Obviously, this does not please God. Work to memorize Psalm 94:14. May it help you to bring your focus onto Jesus the firm foundation whenever you struggle through this life.

Scripture References:

- Psalm 9:10
- Acts 4:11-12
- Psalm 118:22
- Deuteronomy 32:3-4
- Psalm 18:2
- Matthew 7:24-27
- 1 Peter 2:4-5a

Message: Open in prayer, then say, today we are going to shake things up a bit! If you have come to every lesson, then by now you probably have it memorized Psalm 9:10. Psalm 9:10. "Those who know your name trust in you, for you, O Lord, do not abandon those who search for you.")

Turn in your Bibles to Acts 4:11-12 "For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says, 'The stone that you builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved." Before we talk about today's name of God, let's take a few minutes to learn our memory verse. Explain that this verse means that we can only be saved when we trust in Jesus.

Now let's jump into today's name of God! You saw a hint of it in Acts 4:11, just before our memory verse. What does it say? "For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says, 'The stone that you builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.'" So in this passage, Peter, is referring to a passage in Psalm 118:22. "The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone."

What is a cornerstone? A cornerstone is the stone in the corner of a building. Ya, it's that simple. The cornerstone is the first one placed when building a building. If the cornerstone isn't placed just right, then the whole building will be crooked because all the other stones are placed for the building based off of the cornerstone. Jesus is the cornerstone. He was rejected by the religious leaders of the time and sent to die on the cross. But he is the cornerstone, the most important stone in the entire building of faith. Everything we do as we trust in God is built on Jesus, the Cornerstone. We'll get into that idea a little more near the end of the lesson. Usually so far, we have started with passages from the Old Testament and then moved on to see how Jesus fulfills the name of God in the New Testament. Today we went backwards. We see how Jesus is God with a verse from the book of Acts. Now let's bounce back into the Old Testament, to the time before Jesus died to save us from our sins, and let's look more in depth at this name of God.

How about a sword drill? Take all fingers and bookmarks out of your Bible. turn to Deuteronomy 32:3-4. "I will proclaim the name of the Lord; how glorious is our God! He is the Rock; his deeds are perfect. Everything he does is just and fair. He is a faithful God who does no wrong; how just and upright he is!" So Jesus is the Cornerstone. How does this passage describe God?

Yes, God is the Rock. what "Rock" means, characteristics of rocks. For example, rocks are hard, nearly unbreakable, they can be used to build things, they are everywhere, and they make up the mountains. That is quite a list! To call God the Rock is to say that he is strong and stable and trustworthy. The Hebrew word used for "rock" here gets pretty specific. It doesn't just mean a rock, like the kind you find lying on the ground. It means a cleft in a rock, a place where you could hide and never be found by your enemies. This kind of rock is a refuge, a safe place.

Psalm 18:2 describes God the Rock perfectly. "The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my savior; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety." So how many ways does David describe God in this one little verse? I counted seven different descriptions of God here! David called God his rock twice, so that would make eight.

Let's write all these descriptions. "Rock, fortress, savior, protector, shield, power that saves, safe place." See all these descriptions? All of these fit into the title of God the Rock. Saying that God is our Rock is saying that he is our fortress or castle, and that he protects us and shields us. He has the power to save us and he is the one who saves us by dying on the cross for us. He is a safe place. This world can be scary sometimes. Bad things happen for no good reason and people will hate us just because we love Jesus. But God is our Rock. He protects us and keeps us safe.

When I say that God the Rock protects us, I'm not saying that bad things will never happen to us. We still get sick, or lose championship games, or fail tests or have friends move away. Life is rough. God never promises a life without tough times. He does promise to keep us strong through those hard times by being our Rock.

There's this great story that Jesus told in the New Testament. It's at the end of the Sermon on the Mount, which is where Jesus taught a whole bunch of stories and taught everyone how to follow him. let's read the story now. Matthew 7:24-27 "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash." Jesus is the solid rock. When we listen to him and do what he tells us to, we will be safe even through the

scary storms of life. When we choose to follow our own way and ignore Jesus, our lives fall apart.

So God is our Rock. When we listen to him and do what he tells us to, he keeps us safe. Did you know that the Bible calls us rocks, too? Well, stones. 1 Peter 2:4-5a says, "You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor. And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple." We know that Jesus is the cornerstone. He is the most important rock in God's temple. This passage tells us that everyone who believes in Jesus gets to be built up into a temple, a holy place for God!

When Christians work together and trust in Jesus, it's like we are all one big church building, so everyone can see God and come and worship him because they see how much we love God. A church isn't just a building. The church is all of God's people in the whole world, living stones who follow him! So, trust in God the Rock to help you with your troubles, and obey him so you can be a living stone!

Close in prayer.

"Yahweh Shalom / Prince of Peace" Names of God Lesson for Childrens

This is part one of a new series we're calling, "***Hello, My Name Is... A Series on the Names of God.***"

Main Idea: Yahweh Shalom sends us in peace, saves us in peace and shields us in peace.

Memory Verse: "Those who know your name trust in you, for you, O LORD, do not abandon those who search for you." Psalm 9:10

Teacher Preparation:

- Read lesson, Scripture references, and Philippians 4:6-9, Colossians 3:12-17, John 14:27, John 16:33, Judges 6-8
- Take time to meditate on this lesson and apply it to your own life. This is a tough lesson for me to live out. I get so overwhelmed with daily life, so nervous about my calling, so saddened by world news, that I let my stress overshadow the truth that God gives us peace. We face a scary world and busy lives. But we have no need to fear. When we trust God, he fills us with inexplicable peace. Reflect on the last time you experienced the peace of Jehovah Shalom. Thank him for that time and pray that he would fill you with peace. Look at Judges 6:14: "Then the Lord turned to him and said, 'Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!'" Write this verse down, but remove "and rescue Israel from the Midianites." Replace that with your own Godly calling. Read it through slowly and with confidence. Does this fill you with peace and strength? Dear teacher, I pray that it does.

Scripture References:

- Judges 6:1-24
- John 20:21
- Ephesians 6:15
- Philippians 4:6-7
- Numbers 6:24-26

Message: Open in prayer, then say, I have loved learning about the names of God with you! We are almost halfway through our Names of God study. What are some of the things you have learned about over the past several weeks? (Take a few minutes to listen to your class and have them share what they remember from the past few weeks.)

Today's name is Yahweh Shalom. We know that Yahweh is God's special and holy name. Jehovah Shalom means "God is Peace." Or, more specifically, Yahweh is Peace. I'll use both Jehovah Shalom and Yahweh Shalom so you will become familiar with both terms. Now let's find out where we see the name Yahweh Shalom in the Bible. It all starts with Gideon. Gideon was sort of a scaredy cat whom God used to rescue Israel from its enemies. You may follow along in your Bibles or close your eyes and listen quietly as read from Judges 6:1-24.

"The Israelites did evil in the Lord's sight. So the Lord handed them over to the Midianites for seven years. The Midianites were so cruel that the Israelites made hiding places for themselves in the mountains, caves, and strongholds. Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, marauders from Midian, Amalek, and the people of the east would attack Israel, camping in the land and destroying crops as far away as Gaza. They left the Israelites

with nothing to eat, taking all the sheep, goats, cattle, and donkeys. These enemy hordes, coming with their livestock and tents, were as thick as locusts; they arrived on droves of camels too numerous to count. And they stayed until the land was stripped bare. So Israel was reduced to starvation by the Midianites. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help.

When they cried out to the Lord because of Midian, the Lord sent a prophet to the Israelites. He said, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of slavery in Egypt. I rescued you from the Egyptians and from all who oppressed you. I drove out your enemies and gave you their land. I told you, 'I am the Lord your God. You must not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you now live.' But you have not listened to me."

Then the angel of the Lord came and sat beneath the great tree at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash of the clan of Abiezer. Gideon son of Joash was threshing wheat at the bottom of a winepress to hide the grain from the Midianites. The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, "Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!"

"Sir," Gideon replied, "if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? And where are all the miracles our ancestors told us about? Didn't they say, 'The Lord brought us up out of Egypt'? But now the Lord has abandoned us and handed us over to the Midianites."

Then the Lord turned to him and said, "Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!"

"But Lord," Gideon replied, "how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!"

The Lord said to him, "I will be with you. And you will destroy the Midianites as if you were fighting against one man."

Gideon replied, "If you are truly going to help me, show me a sign to prove that it is really the Lord speaking to me. Don't go away until I come back and bring my offering to you."

He answered, "I will stay here until you return."

Gideon hurried home. He cooked a young goat, and with a basket of flour he baked some bread without yeast. Then, carrying the meat in a basket and the broth in a pot, he brought them out and presented them to the angel, who was under the great tree.

The angel of God said to him, "Place the meat and the unleavened bread on this rock, and pour the broth over it." And Gideon did as he was told. Then the angel of the Lord touched the meat and bread with the tip of the staff in his hand, and fire flamed up from the rock and consumed all he had brought. And the angel of the Lord disappeared.

When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the Lord, he cried out, "Oh, Sovereign Lord, I'm doomed! I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face!"

"It is all right," the Lord replied. "Do not be afraid. You will not die." And Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and named it Yahweh-Shalom (which means "the Lord is peace"). The altar remains in Ophrah in the land of the clan of Abiezer to this day."

Go through it with them, emphasizing points such as the fact the Gideon was hiding in what was basically a hole in the ground, doing a sweaty, hard job that would require wind to winnow the wheat from the chaff. The Lord, Yahweh spoke with him and called him a mighty warrior and called him to lead an army to defeat Israel's enemy, the Midianites. Even though this happened a long time ago, we can still learn important lessons for our lives, too. Judges 6:14 says, "Then the Lord turned to [Gideon] and said, 'Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!'" God sends us too.

In John 20:21, after his resurrection, Jesus says to his disciples, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." God has a plan for all our lives. We are all supposed to love God and obey his commands and love and take care of our neighbors. We are sent into the world to tell everyone the good news about Jesus. This can be scary sometimes! What if people laugh or tease you because you are a Christian? What if God asks you to do something hard, like be a missionary or a pastor someday? We don't have to worry. We don't have to be afraid. God is with us. He is the God of Peace, Yahweh Shalom. When we have God's peace in our hearts, we can do anything God sends us to do!

Can anyone tell me what peace means? The dictionary says that peace is freedom from disturbance or freedom from war or violence. This is true, but

the word Shalom in Hebrew means so much more than that. Shalom means to be free from disturbance, to be restful. It also means to be complete, whole, perfect. We know that God makes us whole and perfect by taking away our sins when we believe that Jesus died to save us from our sins. In Ephesians 6:15, we are told to "...put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared." The Good News about Jesus is the Gospel of Peace. We have peace in our hearts when we follow Jesus.

So Jehovah Shalom sends us and saves us. That's easy to say but honestly sometimes I still feel... unsettled. Worried. Unsure. Scared. I feel like a hurricane is inside me sometimes. These sorts of thoughts and feelings are not from God. Let's have a sword drill to see how God helps us avoid these negative feelings. Take all fingers and bookmarks out of your Bibles and hold them above your head. When I say go, turn to Philippians 4:6-7. "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus." When we are scared, restless, or worried, all we have to do is pray and thank God for the good things he has done in our lives. When we focus on God and the good things he does for us, an amazing thing happens. All the stress and all the worry melts away. The bad situation may not go away, but somehow, when you pray to God, he shields you with this amazing peace, more amazing than our little human brains can understand, and you will feel better.

One last point. The name Jehovah Shalom is found in the Old Testament, but we spent a lot of time talking about how peace comes through Jesus. The story of Jesus' life is found in the New Testament, but there is a verse about him in the Old Testament that has to do with today's lesson. Isaiah 9:6 says, "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." Jesus is our Prince of Peace. Yahweh Shalom, the God who sends Peace, sent his one and only son Jesus to be the Prince of Peace, and to live a perfect life and to die for our sins so the when we trust in him the peace of God would live in our hearts forever. Yahweh Shalom sends us in peace, saves us in peace and shields us in peace. a blessing from Numbers 6:24-26: "May the Lord bless you and protect you. May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord show you his favor and give you his peace."

Close in prayer.

“Consuming Fire / Jealous God”

Names of Lesson for childrens

This is part of a new series we're calling, "***Hello, My Name Is... A Series on the Names of God.***"

Main Idea: The Consuming Fire/Jealous God judges and punishes the wicked while, in his deep passion and jealousy for us, created a way for everyone to be saved.

Memory Verse: "Those who know your name trust in you, for you, O LORD, do not abandon those who search for you." Psalm 9:10

Teacher Preparation:

- Read lesson, Scripture references, and Deuteronomy 5:8-10, Deuteronomy 6:13-19, Isaiah 33:14-15 and Song of Solomon 8:6-7
- Take time to meditate on this lesson and apply it to your own life. We are a grace-soaked culture. In so many ways, this is a glorious thing. Abounding grace makes it easier for us to love our neighbors, both in the church pew and in the prison cell. But I think it can be easy to let our own hearts drown in grace. We love to hear that God is jealous for us and loves us, but this fruits of this love are diminished when we fail to recall that from which we have been saved. Take time to contemplate your own walk with God. Thank him for being the Consuming Fire that devours wickedness, as well being as the God that yearns jealously over you and takes away your sin. Repent of your sins and recommit to give him your whole heart and love, which he rightly deserves.

Scripture References:

- Deuteronomy 4:23-24
- Deuteronomy 9:1-4
- Matthew 3:12
- Romans 3:23
- Romans 3:24-26
- Hebrews 12:28-29
- Exodus 20:3, 17
- Exodus 34:14
- Zechariah 8:2

Message: Open in prayer, then say, Today we are going to learn about not one, but TWO names of God! Before we get started, let's look back at the names we have learned so far. We have learned that God is our Strong Creator, who has big plans for us. His special, holy name is Yahweh, and he saves us from our sins through Jesus Christ. Then we learned that God is our good Master and we are his humble slaves. He blesses us when we follow his commands. Last week we learned that God is our loving father when we choose to follow him. As we studied these names, we saw in all of them that God loves us. We saw that God loves us so much that he sent his son Jesus to die for our sins. The Bible is all about God's love for us. The two names we will study today are no exception. Today's names of God are Consuming Fire, and Jealous God. Let's start by finding these names in the Bible with a sword drill. turn to Deuteronomy 4:23-24. Go! "So be careful not to break the covenant the Lord your God has made with you. Do not make idols of any shape or form, for the Lord your God has forbidden this. The Lord your God is a devouring fire; he is a jealous God."

We are looking at two names of God today because they are often seen together in Scripture and are like two sides of the same coin. One side of the coin is God: the devouring, consuming fire, and the other side is the jealous, passionate for us God. Let's look at the first name. The passage we just read says God is a devouring fire. What does it mean to devour something? To devour means to eat something up until there is nothing left. It's like when you're really hungry at dinner and you gobble up everything on your plate before anyone else can finish their food. So a devouring fire destroys everything in its path. the New Living Translation, uses the word "devouring." Most English translations say "consuming." Consuming and devouring both mean the same thing. So usually when you hear this name of God, you will hear it as "Consuming Fire." When we hear that God is a Consuming Fire, we are reminded that he is perfectly perfect. He is holy and set apart. In his perfectness, he will judge the whole world and those who don't believe in him will be devoured by his Consuming Fire.

There are a LOT of names of God in the Bible, and we're only looking at the most used, most well-known names of God throughout this study. But this name, God the Devouring Fire, seems different from the rest. I wanted to skip it because this name represents God's judgement on people, and that is a difficult topic that no one wants to hear about. But I love you all. I love you all enough to tell you the truth. You have to know that God is full of grace and mercy and love. You know that he sent his son Jesus to die for us. It would be easy to leave it there. But as we are learning through studying the names of God, God, Yahweh, Elohim, Adonai, Abba, is very, very big. Keep this in mind: everything God does, he does out of love for us. This

includes when we see God as a Consuming Fire. When we see God as the Consuming Fire, we see him judging and punishing the wicked. Let's take a look at Deuteronomy 9:1-4. "Listen, O Israel! Today you are about to cross the Jordan River to take over the land belonging to nations much greater and more powerful than you. They live in cities with walls that reach to the sky! The people are strong and tall—descendants of the famous Anakite giants. You've heard the saying, 'Who can stand up to the Anakites?' But recognize today that the Lord your God is the one who will cross over ahead of you like a devouring fire to destroy them. He will subdue them so that you will quickly conquer them and drive them out, just as the Lord has promised. After the Lord your God has done this for you, don't say in your hearts, 'The Lord has given us this land because we are such good people!' No, it is because of the wickedness of the other nations that he is pushing them out of your way." So in this passage, we see that the Israelites are getting ready to cross over into the Promised Land after wondering around in the desert for forty years. This says that God will go ahead of the Israelites and destroy the people who live in the Promised Land. He will destroy them not because the Israelites, who are God's chosen people, are so good, but because the people who live in the Promised Land are so wicked. We see that God, the Devouring Fire, destroys the wicked.

So many people hate to hear that. We hate to hear verses like Matthew 3:12: "He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire." Verses like this remind us that God will judge the wicked, the people who choose not to follow him. We don't like it because it feels like it goes against God's love. But really, God the Consuming Fire is a great reminder of his love.

God will punish the wicked. We are all wicked! Let's have a sword drill to show us where the Bible tells us this., turn to Romans 3:23."For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." Does this mean that we will all be subject to the Devouring Fire? Are we all doomed?

No. God will consume the wicked. But he has made a way for everyone to be saved from his wrath. How can we be saved from God's punishment? God has made a way for every single person in the world to be saved from the punishment of their sins. Romans 3:24-26 tells us exactly what this way is. "Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not

punish those who sinned in times past, for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus."

God is perfect and holy and loves us so much that he does not want us to be punished for our sins. But if we choose to ignore God and do wrong things, then we will face the Consuming Fire. We can worship God with joy and respect because he is the Devouring Fire! (See Hebrews 12:28-29.)

This brings us to our next name. What is it? Our God is a Jealous God. What do you think of when you hear the word jealous? When we think of jealousy, we usually think of it as a bad thing. We think of how we get jealous when a friend gets a new video game we've been wanting. We call jealous people green-eyed monsters. When we think of jealousy, we think of the tenth commandment, which tells us not to covet. (Exodus 20:17) To covet is to really, really want what someone else has. But the jealousy of God is not like covetousness. It is not at all like human jealousy. God is perfectly pure, and his jealousy is perfectly pure too. So I've just reminded you about the tenth commandment. What is the first commandment? The first commandment is "You must not have any other god but me." (Exodus 20:3.) Exodus 34:14 gives one reason why this is the first commandment. It says, "You must worship no other gods, for the Lord, whose very name is Jealous, is a God who is jealous about his relationship with you." God is jealous about his relationship with you. He loves you and wants you to love him more than you love anyone or anything else in the whole world. This word for jealous isn't like human jealousy. It isn't like when you get jealous because your best friend sits with someone else at lunch. The word jealous, when it is talking about how God is a Jealous God, means passionate. God is right to be jealous for you, because as we have learned, God, Elohim, created you. God, Abba, is your heavenly Father. When you believe in Jesus and do your best to follow God, you belong to God. You are his humble servant and he is your Master, your Adonai. You belong to God. Zechariah 8:2 says, "This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says: My love for Mount Zion is passionate and strong; I am consumed with passion for Jerusalem!" God loves you so, so much, my dears. He loves you so much that he wants to save you from the punishment that you deserve for sinning. He sent his son Jesus to die for our sins so we don't have to. Praise God, that he is Jealous for us, and that the Consuming Fire has made a way for us to be saved from our sins and to spend all of forever in Heaven with him!

Close in prayer.

“Abba / Father” Names of God Lesson for childrens

This is part of a new series we're calling, "***Hello, My Name Is... A Series on the Names of God.***"

Main Idea: God is a loving Father to those who choose to follow him.

Memory Verse: "Those who know your name trust in you, for you, O LORD, do not abandon those who search for you." Psalm 9:10

Teacher Preparation:

Read lesson, Scripture references, and Mark 14:36, John 1:12-13, Galatians 4:5-8, Luke 12:32, 2 Corinthians 6:18, Hosea 11:1-3, 1 John 3:1-2, Luke 15:11-32

- Take time to meditate on this lesson and apply it to your own life. I have often heard that Abba is Aramaic for "Daddy," but in all my research, I could not find any proof that this is true. "Abba" means "Father", but it does not seem to mean the more informal "Daddy." I have often referred to God as my daddy through prayer, but there seems to be no Biblical precedence for calling God, "Daddy." I don't see this as a sin, but I do want to leave a caution against an overly informal relationship with God. We are to be comfortable with the Lord, but we must not forget that he is holy. So we see in the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:9, "Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy." May we keep our Father's name holy and set apart. Please take the time to study the extra Bible verses listed above, as they help illuminate Abba more beyond the scope of this lesson. Also, please be sensitive to the family dynamics in your group. You may have children in foster care, adopted out of difficult situations, children from divorced homes or mixed families. There may be a history of abuse or neglect about which you may not be aware. Not everyone in your class may know what it is like to have an earthly daddy who shows them love.

Scripture References:

- Psalm 9:10
- Romans 8:14-17
- Matthew 7:9-11
- Mark 6:31-33
- 2 Corinthians 1:3

- Psalm 103:13-14
- Micah 7:19
- Ephesians 1:5

Message: Open in prayer, then say Bible verse is a great reminder that when we know God's name, when we put our trust in him, he will always be with us and he will never leave us. We're starting to see that there are a lot of names and titles of God in the Bible! We have learned that God is our Strong Creator, who has big plans for us. His special, holy name is Yahweh, and he saves us from our sins through Jesus Christ. God is our Master and we are his slaves. He blesses us when we follow his commands. This week's name of God can seem like the exact opposite of Master. But God is so big and so amazing, that both names can be his at the same time. So that's enough teasing. Let's find out what today's name of God is!

read Romans 8:14-17. "For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, 'Abba, Father.' For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering."

There's a lot going on in those verses. Let's start by finding God's name. What is God called in this passage? God is called "Abba, Father." "Abba" is Aramaic for Father. Aramaic was a language that was spoken at the time of Jesus. God is Father. But God is not everyone's Father. According to the passage we just read, what special circumstance makes it possible for us to be called God's children? How do we become a child of God, so we can call him Father? Verse 14 tells us that everyone who is led by the Spirit of God is called a child of God. The Spirit of God is of course the Holy Spirit, which comes into our hearts when we ask God to forgive us of our sins through his son Jesus, and then we do our best to follow him. So, we are God's children when we love God.

Isn't this great news? We know we don't have to be fearful slaves, because God is a kind and generous Master. But we aren't just servants to God, we are his children. He loves us just like dads love their kids. Well, that isn't quite right. Dads on earth are humans. That means they are sinners. All of our dads make mistakes. They say things they don't mean and sometimes do things they should not do. Just like us, because we are all sinners. But God is perfect. He does not sin. Let's have a quick sword drill. turn to Matthew 7:9-11. Go! "You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread,

do you give them a stone instead? Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him." You see, as much as your parents love you, God loves you even more! When we pray to God, he gives us good things, because he loves us like our parents do, but better. He loves us perfectly. Now I want to take a moment to mention, that not everyone lives with their mom and dad. Some kids live in foster homes, some live with grandparents or aunts and uncles, and some may live in homes where their parents love them, but don't know how to show it. Sometimes, it's hard to look at parents on earth and imagine that God is a Father to us, because earthly fathers are sinners and God is perfect. So I want to take a few minutes to make a list on the board of things that make someone a good parent. I don't mean things like "they let you stay up all night and eat candy." That may sound like fun, but isn't very healthy, is it? So, tell me, what makes someone a good parent? (Have the children make a list with characteristics of a good parent. Be sure the following characteristics make it onto the list, as these are the ones we will focus on for the rest of the lesson: care for our needs, compassionate, comforting.)

You all came up with a great list of things that make a good parent! We're going to look at three of these characteristics, because they show us how Abba, our Heavenly Father, cares for us. The first characteristic I want to look at is found in Matthew 6:31-33. It says, "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need." From these verses we see that our Heavenly Father gives us everything we need. It doesn't say everything we want. But when we trust Abba and put all of our thoughts and energy into following his will instead of worrying about things, then he will give us everything that we need. Abba cares for our needs.

Next, let's take a look at 2 Corinthians 1:3. "All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort." That one is pretty straightforward, isn't it? Whenever we are scared, worried, or sad, God will comfort us. Whenever we are scared or sad, we can pray to Abba and he will give us peace.

For our last characteristic, let's read Psalm 103:13-14. "The Lord is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him. For he knows how weak we are; he remembers we are only dust." Abba is

compassionate towards us. What does it mean to be compassionate? To be compassionate means to show sympathy or concern for someone. But it's not just sitting around, feeling bad for someone. When we have compassion, we are moved to action. It's like seeing someone at school who doesn't have any lunch, and sharing your lunch with them. That's compassion. God has compassion on us by forgiving us of our sins. Micah 7:19 tells us exactly what God does with sin! It says, "Once again you will have compassion on us. You will trample our sins under your feet and throw them into the depths of the ocean!" Abba gets rid of our sins!

Not only does he get rid of our sins, he sent his one and only son, Jesus, to die for our sins so God could adopt us. Ephesians 1:5 says, "God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure." It makes God happy for us to be his children!

Let's really let that sink in. God, the Strong Creator, the God who Saves, the Master, is thrilled to adopt us as his children! All we have to do is believe that he loves us, and do our best to obey his commands.

Close in prayer.

"Adonai" Names of God Lesson for childrens

This is part of a new series we're calling, "***Hello, My Name Is... A Series on the Names of God.***"

Main Idea: God is our master, and we are his servants. He blesses us with good things when we obey his commands.

Memory Verse: "Those who know your name trust in you, for you, O LORD, do not abandon those who search for you." Psalm 9:10

Teacher Preparation:

- Read lesson, Scripture references, and Romans 6:15-23, Mark 10:45, Philipians 2:7-8, Luke 6:46-49, Matthew 7:21, and James 1:25

- Take time to meditate on this lesson and apply it to your own life. Conceptually, God as Master is pretty easy to understand. Practically, it is often very difficult to live by. All too often, I treat God as a divine vending machine, praying for what I want. I may add a “your will be done,” or, “in God’s name,” but really I am missing his Lordship. God as Master means we do his will. Yes, like Abram, we do bring God our concerns and our wishes. But we must do so with the firm belief that God is our Lord, our Master. He is a loving Lord who gives us every good thing. When we remember this, when we remind ourselves that we are humble slaves to the most generous, kind Master, then our worries and wishes often diminish like a flickering candle next to the bonfire of his fierce love for us. Reflect this week on your own relationship with the Master. How do you feel about being a slave? When you meditate on the goodness, the graciousness of our Lord, does it help you to have a heart that is willing to obey his commands?

Scripture References:

- Matthew 6:24
- Psalm 16:1-2
- Genesis 15:1-6
- Psalm 119:45

Message: Open in prayer, then say, our love of being in charge makes today’s name of God a difficult one. It’s an easy enough name to learn about, but when it comes to letting what we know about God change the way we live, this one is a toughie. Today’s name of God is Adonai. Adonai appears in the Old Testament over 300 times. We use this name for God a whole lot in English. Adonai means Lord. What is a lord? A lord is someone who is in charge of others. Another good way to think of the title Adonai is Master. God is the Boss.

The thing is, God is the Boss of us. He is our Lord. The name Adonai reminds us that we have a relationship with God. He is our Master, and we are his slaves. You know, I could say we are his servants. That would give a pretty good picture about how we relate to God as Master, but I really like slaves better. It makes me squirm a bit. Slavery is bad, isn’t it? We know that humans should not own other humans. But when we trust in God and turn away from our sins and do our best to follow God, it means we belong to God. We belong to God. We are his. That sounds much better, doesn’t it? But it means the same thing. When we put our faith in God, he becomes our Lord. We become his slaves, his servants, who want to obey his commands.

It’s not like we weren’t already slaves, though. We will always, always serve a master in our lives. That master, that boss, should be God. But sometimes we get it mixed up and instead of giving the Lord our love, our time and our

worship, we worship other masters. Can you think of some other things we can let become the masters of our lives instead of God?

You see, there is no way around it. One way or another, we will have a master in our lives. We choose to give our time, our energy, our money, our thoughts and our love to something. The thing is, there is only room for one Master on the throne of our hearts. Let's have a sword drill. turn to Matthew 6:24. Go! "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money." The word translated as money here doesn't just mean money. It can mean whatever you treasure more than you treasure your relationship with God. It's easy to say that we love God more than... staying up late reading a good book, but if we choose to read that good book or play that video game instead of spending time with the Lord, than it's clear that our master is not God.

It would be pretty depressing if that were the end of our lesson. Thankfully, it isn't! King David trusted God to be his Master. Listen to what David sang in Psalm 16:1-2. "Keep me safe, O God, for I have come to you for refuge. ²I said to the Lord, "You are my Master! Every good thing I have comes from you." This is what we need to remember every day. God is our Master. He keeps us safe and gives us every single good thing in our lives. Video games aren't bad. Getting good grades and being a good athlete aren't bad. These are good things that God gives us! Our Lord gives us, his slaves, good things.

Let's look at one more story about Adonai, God our Lord. The first time we see the name Adonai is in Genesis, chapter 15. Now to give you some context, in this story we see the Lord speaking with Abram. Later God will change his name to Abraham. As in, Father Abraham Had Many Sons. Abram has been following God for a while now. He even left his home and everyone he knew to follow God. God has promised Abram that he will make a great nation out of Abram's descendants. But in chapter 15, Abram still doesn't even have one kid, let alone great grandkids to start a nation from. Listen to how his conversation with God goes in Genesis 15:1-6. The name Adonai is in there, but it's a little hidden. "Some time later, the Lord spoke to Abram in a vision and said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, for I will protect you, and your reward will be great.'² But Abram replied, 'O Sovereign LORD, what good are all your blessings when I don't even have a son? Since you've given me no children, Eliezer of Damascus, a servant in my household, will inherit all my wealth. ³You have given me no descendants of my own, so one of my servants will be my heir.'

⁴Then the Lord said to him, 'No, your servant will not be your heir, for you will have a son of your own who will be your heir.' ⁵Then the Lord took Abram outside and said to him, 'Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That's how many descendants you will have!'

⁶And Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord counted him as righteous because of his faith."

At first it just sounds like Abram is being a little whiny, doesn't it? But before he brings his worries to God, he calls God his Master. It's in verse two says "Sovereign LORD." Some translations say "The Lord GOD." Instead of writing the Holy name of God, most Bible translations substitute "Adonai," or "Lord" in place of "Yahweh." But they write it in all caps so you can tell the difference. It gets tricky when you run into passages like this. Abram said, "Adonai Yahweh," or, "My Master, Yahweh." So here it says Sovereign LORD, and it means "Master Yahweh." Abram is showing that he believes in God and trusts him. And the Lord, our Master, called Abram a righteous man because he believed in God as his Master.

Understanding God as Elohim and Yahweh helps us understand God as Adonai. We don't like to be told what to do. We don't like the idea of being slaves to a Master, even when that Master is God. But when we remember that God is the Strong Creator who made everything just by speaking, and that God is I AM, who is and who was and who will always be no matter what we do, then it becomes easier to accept that God is our Lord, our Master, our Boss. He doesn't give us rules and commandments to obey because he is mean, or because it helps him be better at being God. Why do you think Adonai gives us rules? We have the commandments in the Bible because they help us live better, happier lives. Psalm 119:45 says, "I will walk in freedom, for I have devoted myself to your commandments." When we believe in God and do our best to follow his commands, he sets us free from sin and gives us eternal life forever in Heaven with him! Being a slave doesn't sound bad at all when you look at it that way, does it? We get to be freed from sin and slaves to the Lord because the Lord sent his son, Jesus to earth. Jesus came as a slave to God. He served everyone he met in love. He never sinned, and he died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins. Jesus is the reason we get to be slaves to God, and he is the perfect example of how we serve God.

Close in prayer.

“Yahweh / I AM” Names of God Lesson for childrens

This is part of a new series we're calling, "***Hello, My Name Is... A Series on the Names of God.***"

Main Idea: God's eternal, special name is Yahweh. Yahweh is the forever God, with no beginning or end and who never changes. Yahweh saves his people.

Memory Verse: "Those who know your name trust in you, for you, O LORD, do not abandon those who search for you." Psalm 9:10

Teacher Preparation:

- Read lesson, Scripture references, and Exodus 20:2-3, John 8:54-59, Proverbs 18:10, Proverbs 3:26, Deuteronomy 28:9-13, Psalm 34, Romans 11:34-36; Isaiah 42:8
- Take time to meditate on this lesson and apply it to your own life. the name Yahweh is the ineffable name of God. You do not write it and you do not speak it out of reverence of the Lord. I believe that God wants us to remember him as the God who saves, as Yahweh, so I freely use the name throughout this lesson. But please remember that I do so with the utmost fear and love and reverence of our God. His name is holy. We are to treat it with respect and awe. Throughout this week, as you prepare your lesson, look into the character of Yahweh, the God who saves, and let yourself be like Moses, who trembled and removed his sandals on the holy ground before the Lord and could not look at Yahweh. May we forever tremble in awe before Yahweh, the God who saves.

Scripture References:

- Psalm 9:10
- Exodus 3:1-17
- Matthew 1:21
- Psalm 103:1-13
- Numbers 6:24-26

Message: Open in prayer, then say, we are going to learn about the real name in God. It's used more than any other name of God in the Bible. It's used over 6,800 times in the Old Testament! We see the real name of God in

our memory verse. Does anyone see it? That's kind of a trick question. God's name is in this verse, but it's hidden. Do you see where it says LORD in all caps? This is where God's name is hidden.

Before I tell you what God's name is, let me share a brief history lesson with you. God first tells us his name in the book of Exodus in the Bible. He introduced himself to Moses and asked Moses to do something big and scary for him. He then tells Moses his name to help give him confidence. We'll read that story in a bit. Anyway, God's people knew his name. But after a while, they decided that the name of God is too amazing and too perfect to be said out loud. So eventually, everyone stopped saying it, including the priests! They even decided that God's perfect, special, beautiful name was too wonderful and awesome to even write down! So when they would copy down the Bible—remember, this was before copy machines, — they would write LORD instead of God's name. When they wrote LORD in all caps, like this, it meant the special, perfect, lovely name of God. When they wrote Lord like this, it referred to another name of God. So what ended up happening is that over time, people forgot how to properly pronounce God's special name. Now I have to tell you that this name of God is very special. I know people who don't like to say God's name or hear God's name because it is so holy and so special. God's name is very special. And he wants us to know what it is. read Exodus 3:1-17. ¹One day Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. He led the flock far into the wilderness and came to Sinai, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush. Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was engulfed in flames, it didn't burn up. ³"This is amazing," Moses said to himself. "Why isn't that bush burning up? I must go see it."

⁴When the Lord saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

"Here I am!" Moses replied.

⁵"Do not come any closer," the Lord warned. "Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground. ⁶I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷Then the Lord told him, "I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. ⁸So I have come down to rescue

them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land. It is a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live. ⁹ Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them. ¹⁰ Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt.”

¹¹ But Moses protested to God, “Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?”

¹² God answered, “I will be with you. And this is your sign that I am the one who has sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God at this very mountain.”

¹³ But Moses protested, “If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ they will ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what should I tell them?”

¹⁴ God replied to Moses, “I am who I am. Say this to the people of Israel: I am has sent me to you.” ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel: Yahweh, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.

This is my eternal name,
my name to remember for all generations.

¹⁶ “Now go and call together all the elders of Israel. Tell them, ‘Yahweh, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—has appeared to me. He told me, ‘I have been watching closely, and I see how the Egyptians are treating you. ¹⁷ I have promised to rescue you from your oppression in Egypt. I will lead you to a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live.’”

Imagine being Moses, and meeting God in the burning bush! Who caught the name of God in there? God’s real name, his eternal name for people to remember him by forever, is Yahweh. (Most likely pronounced YAH-way.) The name Yahweh is seen most often when the Bible talks about the redeeming acts of God, when God works to save his people. Like in the story we just read, God promises Moses that he will save his people from the horrible slavery they faced in Egypt. Yahweh is the God who saves. Like I

said at the beginning of this lesson, we see the name Yahweh nearly 7,000 times in the Old Testament. God is always saving his people.

Well God's name Yahweh is of like that. When Moses asked God what his name is, God said "I am who I am." The Hebrew words could also mean "I will be what I will be." Basically God is saying that he has always been around, since before time began. He created time, after all. And he will always be around, even after time ends. And he will never, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever change. God is perfect, has always been perfect, and will always be perfect. That's why we can trust him. He will always be exactly who he is. In fact, Yahweh means "I Am." Isn't that beautiful? The name that God wants us to remember means "I Am."

You know that Jesus is everywhere in the Bible, not just in the New Testament. Let's have a sword drill to show us what Jesus has to do with Yahweh. turn to Matthew 1:21. Go! "And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." In this verse, an angel of the Lord is talking to Joseph about his soon-to-be wife Mary and the baby she is going to have. The angel tells Joseph to name him Jesus, because he will save people from their sins. Do you know what Jesus means? It means "Yahweh saves!" We learned today that the name Yahweh is used most often when it talks about God saving his people. What's the biggest, most sacrificial and amazing thing God ever did to save his people? He sent his one and only son, Jesus into the world to die for our sins. Jesus never sinned. He is perfect because he is God. He came to earth as a baby and grew up and then was killed on the cross. He died for us, so we don't have to be punished for our sins. God loves us so much, that he sent his own son to save us so we can live forever in Heaven with him. Not only that, he even named his son, "Yahweh saves!"

The whole Bible is about Yahweh and what he does to save his people. During our craft time, we're going to look at a few more passages from the Bible that tell us more about Yahweh. These passages will help us do our craft and to always remember, Yahweh saves.

Close in prayer.

“Elohim / The Word” Names of God

Lesson for childrens

This is part of a new series we're calling, "***Hello, My Name Is... A Series on the Names of God.***"

Main Idea: God is the Strong Creator of the universe and of us. We can trust him and through his strength do the good things that he has planned for us to do.

Memory Verse: "Those who know your name trust in you, for you, O LORD, do not abandon those who search for you." Psalm 9:10

Teacher Preparation:

- Read lesson, Scripture references, and Genesis 1:1-2:7, Psalm 139:1-18, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Acts 2:38, Psalm 33:6-9, Psalm 57:2-3
- Take time to meditate on this lesson and apply it to your own life. I am so often so overwhelmed with my to-do list. It makes me feel insufficient and unworthy of my calling. But then I remember Elohim, the Strong Creator God. He has created me and through Christ Jesus renewed me. He has made me exactly as I am meant to be and through him I can do all things I need to do. Throughout this week, marvel at creation around you and at the creation *of* The Strong Creator loves you and has wonderful plans for you!
- An interesting note about Elohim: the word Elohim is plural, but it doesn't refer to multiple Gods. When the Bible uses the word Elohim to refer to the Strong Creator God, the verbs and adjectives referring to it are singular. The plurality of Elohim is a reflection of the Trinity. It is a reminder that God is three distinct persons, working as one unified God toward one goal. It's more than my finite brain can grasp, which shows, yet again, the power and wonder of our God.

Scripture References:

- Genesis 1:1
- Genesis 2:7
- Psalm 139:14, 16
- Ephesians 2:10
- John 1:1-5, 14

Message: Open in prayer, then say, we meet God in the very first sentence of the very first chapter in the very first book of the Bible. Genesis 1:1 says "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Now you know that the Bible wasn't originally written in English, right? The Old Testament of the Bible was written mostly in Hebrew and the New Testament was written in Greek. This is important to know for this study because a lot of the time in English we just see the word "God," but in the Hebrew, the name of God was more complicated and not something we can just say with one word in English.

You're going to be learning words from Hebrew today! So back to the very first verse of the Bible: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." When we see "God" in this verse, the word in Hebrew is Elohim. (El-o-heem. Write "Elohim" on the board.) The name of God that we are studying today is Elohim. Say that with me: Elohim. When we see this name, we are reminded that God is our Strong Creator. The first part of Elohim, "El," is Hebrew for strong or power. We see the name Elohim in the Bible over 2,000 times! It is the second-most used name of God in the Bible, and it often is used when the Bible is talking about how God is powerful and how he created everything. remember what God created in order the creation story in Genesis 1:1-2:7 Now I have to mention two Hebrew words that I find to be super cool that have to do with the Strong Creator, Elohim. The first word is "yatsar" and the second is "bara." Both words basically mean "to make." But the Hebrew meaning goes deeper than that. "Yatsar" means to make something according to a plan. Like when you build a cup tower, you plan to have three cups on the bottom, two in the middle and one on top. Or you plan to paint a picture of a boat sailing on the ocean at sunset. "Bara" means to create something out of nothing. Any person can "yatsar," but only God can "bara." He just spoke and this whole list we made on the board, and everything else ever made or that ever will exist, is because God made the whole universe by just saying the words. The creation story uses "bara" most of the time, but Genesis 2:7 uses "yatsar." It says, "Then the Lord God [Elohim] formed [yatsar] the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person." God created mankind with a plan. God created you with a plan for you. He took dust and made living, breathing, people. That is the Strong Creator God. Take a minute to let that sink in. God said a few words and created everything from nothing. And then he took dust and made Adam and Eve. He built them and he breathed life into them. The Bible expresses how I feel about this the best. Psalm 139:14 says, "Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it." This Psalm goes on in verse 16 to say, "You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed." Elohim, the Strong Creator

who created the sun and the stars and the sea and the sand, created you. And the Strong Creator wrote out a plan for your life.

Let's have a sword drill. turn to Ephesians 2:10. Go! "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." We are God's masterpiece. We are his work of art. But we have sinned and smeared red paint all over God's masterpiece. God is perfect and when we are covered in sin, we cannot be with God. But he loves us so much that he didn't just ignore our sin or throw us away, he sent his son Jesus to die on the cross for us and make our lives new! When we have Jesus in our lives, he paints a new masterpiece: one where we are cleaned up from our sins and do great things for Jesus. God didn't just make you, he made you with a plan for your life. Now we are all called to do different things with our lives. I am meant to be a teacher, But there are a few things God wants all of us to do with our lives. Micah 6:8 tells us, "No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."

You know, the Bible is an amazing book. It tells us all about how God loves us and how he wants us to live and about Jesus and the sacrifice he made so we can live with him forever in Heaven. Four books of the Bible talk about the life of Jesus: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. We call these books the Gospels. But did you know Jesus isn't only in the Gospels? He's all over the Bible, even in the Old Testament! He's even a part of the very first verse of the very first chapter of the very first book of the Bible. Remember we read that a few minutes ago? Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." The name Jesus isn't here, but we know that Jesus is God. Read John 1:1-5, 14 "In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He existed in the beginning with God. ³God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. ⁴The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it... ¹⁴So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son." I know, that was a lot to take in! This passage can be very confusing, until you understand what it means by "The Word." Who is "The Word?" Jesus is the Word, the Father's one and only Son. This passage tells us that in the beginning, Jesus was there, creating everything! "Elohim," the Strong Creator, is God the Father and Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit all at once. The word "Elhom" is plural, which means more than one. But it doesn't mean more than one God when it talks about the Strong Creator. It

reminds us that Jesus is God in human form, come to die for our sins, and the Holy Spirit is God in us, coming into our hearts when we ask God to forgive us of our sins, and when we do our best to follow the plan Jesus has for our lives. God is the Strong Creator of the universe and of us. We can trust him and through his strength do the good things that he has planned for us to do.

Close in prayer.