

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Christian Leadership*

*How to influence the ideas, opinions and actions of others for Jesus Christ.*

**Lesson 7: The Name (Day One) Family Honor**

What is usually the first thing you learn when you are introduced to another person? You learn the person's name. When parents learn they are expecting a baby, they usually start thinking and investigating possible names for their offspring. Names are important in society and usually tell us something about the person beginning with gender (male or female).

The opposite of name is nameless. It is an adjective that can mean having or bearing no name, unknown by name; obscure, not designated by name; anonymous or defying description; inexpressible.<sup>1</sup> It is difficult to get to know someone if you don't know his or her name. Calling out to someone, "Hey you!" is just not conducive (favorable) to close friendships.

For a variety of reasons, some folks have nicknames. They can be either a shortened version of one's given name, or a descriptive name of a certain attribute or personality trait. In other words, nicknames can further describe or tell something about the person.

**1.** Do you or have you ever had a nickname? If so, what is it and how did it come about?

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Names are important today and they were important in biblical times. Just as parents today name children with positive thoughts of their future so did parents of old. In fact, names in ancient times indicated the person's character, nature and

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<sup>1</sup>The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Third Edition copyright © 1992 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Electronic version licensed from INSO Corporation. All rights reserved.

essence (spirit). Thus if you knew a person's name you would have some idea as to his or her personal characteristics.

Not everyone is satisfied with his or her name. Our youngest daughter was not. We adopted her when she was 9 years old and at 10 she wanted to change her first name. Having read books that said not to change an adoptive child's name, I tried to dissuade her but she was adamant (unyielding). It is quite interesting when you consider the name that she chose. Now she wasn't a believer at the time she chose her new name but it is obvious that God was leading her according to his plans. She chose the name Christine which means follower of Christ. As I write these words she is a missionary in East Asia serving Christ just as her name indicates.

God changed Abraham, Sarah and Jacob's names (Genesis 15:5, 15; 32:28) and Christ changed Peter's name (Matthew 16:17-18). The new names indicated a change in their own character and future towards a fuller and more encompassing relationship and service to God. As a Christian leader, you will be going through changes in your character and abilities as well as helping others embrace the changes in their lives (1 Peter 2:2-3, Hebrews 5:12-14). We know that some changes may not seem very desirable at the time but God is working to make his people live up to their new name.

*However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.* <sup>NIV</sup> 1 Peter 4:16

2. Read 1 Peter 4:16. What name do you now bear? \_\_\_\_\_

3. With this name, who are you named after? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What are some personal characteristics of those who carry this name?  
(Galatians 5:22-26)

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5. Choose one of the above characteristics or personality traits that we call the fruit of the Spirit and share how this trait has developed since you began to carry the name Christian?

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Families want to protect their surname (last name), i.e. the name held by all their family members. They want the community to respect them and their name. If a

family were wealthy, politically active or morally upright, the older members would likely be even more vigilant about making sure the younger family members carried on honorably so that their reputation would be preserved.

Names can even be protected by copyright. Think of Hollywood stars who have died and yet their families are able to reap financial rewards by selling the use of their name and image for advertising and marketing purposes. If the star had a shady past or was not liked very much the value of the name could be greatly diminished.

Christian is our shared family surname! As Christian leaders we should be diligent to live up to the high standards of our name as well as making sure young Christians understand the responsibility of bearing this tremendous name. When we act dishonorably, we cast doubt on the person of Christ and other Christ followers.

*He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.* <sup>NIV</sup> Psalm 23:3

6. Read Psalm 23:3. God guides you in paths of righteousness for his \_\_\_\_\_ sake.

Our allegiance and responsibility to God's name is significant. He guides you and me in paths of righteousness for the sake of, on account of his name. God aims to keep you on the right path to protect his character and reputation. He will strengthen you and help you walk an upright and moral life. God desires that you are holy as he is holy.

Just as a person's name was descriptive of his character in ancient times, so too the names of God illustrate his character. Thus God's identity is attached to his names. Throughout the Bible, God and his names are used interchangeably.

God is in charge of guarding his reputation and that of his family. He knows best how to preserve the honor and praise of his name (Isaiah 48:9-11). Read Ezekiel 20:9 and fill in the blanks in question 7.

*But for the sake of my name I did what would keep it from being profaned in the eyes of the nations they lived among and in whose sight I had revealed myself to the Israelites by bringing them out of Egypt.* <sup>NIV</sup> Ezekiel 20:9

7. God says that for the sake of his \_\_\_\_\_ he did what would keep it from being \_\_\_\_\_ in the eyes of the nations that they (Israelites)

\_\_\_\_\_ among, and in whose \_\_\_\_\_ I had  
\_\_\_\_\_ himself to the Israelites.

God does not want his name to be treated irreverently or without respect (profaned). God had revealed Himself to the Israelites and other nations as a God of purpose, power and truth. Even when the Israelites went after false gods and betrayed their Savior, he did what was necessary to keep his promises. When there was nothing in the Israelites to ingratiate (curry favor) themselves to their Creator, God provided the reason to help them correct their dreadful behavior. God did not want the nations to get the wrong idea about his character and the truth of his word.

Many times only a remnant survived due to the vast wickedness of the people. But nevertheless, true to his word the Messiah was born through this Israelite remnant. Now it is the same today with Christians. God gives us grace for the sake of his name to walk in righteousness and uphold his honor as well as the honor of his family. If you are in Christ, you are in God's family.

8. Can you share a time when God extended grace to you in a difficult situation in which you were about to fail his name? What did you learn through this experience?

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**Our handbook for knowing how to successfully bear (carry) our new family name is the Bible.**

*Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children<sup>2</sup> and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.* <sup>NIV</sup> Ephesians 5:1-2

9. According to Ephesians 5:1-2, how do we imitate God as part of his family and as his dearly loved children?\_\_\_\_\_

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**Personal Application:**

Historically Christians have not always lived up to the high standards that our name demands. Even today, it may be difficult to discern (tell the difference) Christians from non Christians. There are non believers, atheists and even cult

adherents who have high moral standards and pleasing personalities. As a leader that others will look to and emulate (imitate), what can you do to elevate the name Christian to a higher and holier standard?

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**Lesson 7: The Name (Day Two) Righteous is His Name**

God's name in the Bible is synonymous (equivalent in meaning) with God himself. God and his names are used interchangeably for our benefit. This is one of the ways that God has chosen to reveal his personal identity to us.

*The LORD reigns, let the nations tremble; he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake.<sup>2</sup> Great is the LORD in Zion; he is exalted over all the nations.<sup>3</sup> Let them praise your great and awesome name-- he is holy.*<sup>NIV</sup> Psalm 99:1

1. Read Psalm 99:1-3. Who is to praise God's great and awesome name?

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2. How is the LORD and his name used synonymously in Psalm 99:1? \_\_\_\_\_

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The LORD and his holy name are used alternately in Scripture. God and his name have the same holy meaning. This is one reason why the Jews would not even speak or write the name YHWH for fear of misusing it, just as they would be afraid of offending God himself. This is still true for religious Jews today.

All the nations are to praise the LORD and his great and awesome name. The phrase, "all the nations" means everyone. None is excluded from praising the Name. This means praise for all of God and all of his names in Scripture.

*Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,<sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*<sup>NIV</sup> Philippians 2:9-11

3. Read Philippians 2:9-11. What is one of God's names that will cause every knee to bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth at the judgment seat (Romans 14:10-11)? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Are you bowing down to Jesus as Lord right now? Yes No Sometimes (Circle One)

5. Why are you, or why aren't you serving Jesus as your Lord and God daily?

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Christian leaders can learn and teach part of the nature of God by focusing on his names in Scripture. God is incomprehensible so that we will never fully understand or fully know God. However, in his goodness and grace he has revealed a tremendous amount about himself through the Bible. With the Spirit's help, this Holy Book will keep you and me learning and growing in our relationship with the Lord for the rest of our lives. What a joyful, lifetime quest – knowing God!

God's names or attributes can be divided into two parts: the attributes that he shares with us and those he does not. For example, God is merciful and we can share in this characteristic by being merciful to others. However, God is omnipresent (present everywhere) but we can only exist in one place and time zone. God does not share his omnipresence with us or others in heaven.

As powerful as the angels are, including the fallen ones, they are not omnipresent. Satan may be able to cover a lot of territory but not at the same time. He is no match for God. Although there is a battle of good and evil going on, our good God is vastly superior to any evil that Satan dares to throw at us. It is not an equal battle of good versus evil because God is vastly superior.

Satan is a created being who will always have to answer to Almighty God (2 Peter 2:4, Job 1:12; 2:6, Matthew 10:8 & James 4:7). Simply, God has no equal and therefore no opposite. God has given Satan free will (ability to choose; make decisions) within a certain framework, just as he has given us free will. Both Satan's freedom and ours can affect our world adversely.

God is sovereign and supreme. Satan does not even have supreme power over his evil actions but must wage his dastardly deeds within allotted borders (Job 1:12). Neither Satan nor his demons have any power or control over a believer. *You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is*

*greater than the one who is in the world.* <sup>NIV</sup> 1 John 4:4. Keep this verse in mind whenever you feel attacked, persecuted or vulnerable.

We will look at two of God's names that he passes on or shares with us and one name that God does not pass on or share with us. Remember that God's "Being" encompasses all of his names or attributes at the same time. When God is righteous and punishes those who are disobedient, he is still loving and good.

### **Yahweh Tsidkenu (Hebrew language transliterated<sup>2</sup>) – The LORD Our Righteousness**

*Like your name, O God, your praise reaches to the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with righteousness.* <sup>NIV</sup> Psalm 48:10

**6.** Read Psalm 48:10. Why does praise for God and his name reach to the ends of the earth?

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God is praised in all nations because of his righteousness. Let's consider the word righteousness. A standard is a value or object by which something may be measured or tested. If you or your neighbor were to set the standard of what is right and correct, do you think there would be some bias (prejudice) in that standard? Do you think that you or your neighbor might be tempted to change the standard according to your own feelings or changing situation?

You may have heard, "What is right for you may not be right for me." In our world righteousness is based on individual tastes and preferences. In that case, people do not care if what is right for them and their ensuing (following) actions hurt others or not. For example, "I want a new car; I deserve it. Since I don't have enough money to buy the car I want, I will just figure out a way to embezzle (steal) from the company where I work and use the money to purchase the car I desire. Then won't I be proud to drive it." Pride can certainly motivate the heart to sin. It not only causes people to want material things but power and fame also.

However, if folks care a little about others, they may say something like, "It doesn't matter what I do, it isn't hurting anyone." I can lie, visit a prostitute, be a prostitute, view sexual or violent materials, cheat or not keep my word. It is my life and doesn't really affect anyone else."

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<sup>2</sup> To represent (letters or words) in the corresponding characters of another alphabet. Microsoft Bookshelf 1996-97.

7. As a Christian leader, how would you respond to a new Christian who said, “It doesn’t matter what I do, it isn’t hurting anyone.” \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. What do you think is wrong with an arbitrary (subjective) standard of righteousness?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

It would be difficult, if not impossible to follow a rule of conduct if it were applied by chance or whim. It would be a guessing game as to how one should act and respond each day. In the same way, what turmoil and chaos would ensue if each person made rules according to his or her own preference or situation.

God is our standard of righteousness. He always does what is correct and morally good. He is just and upright in all his ways. God does not change (Malachi 3:6) so that the standard of righteousness is fixed and secure. You do not wake up each morning and wonder what will be morally appropriate for me today. Righteousness is set in God himself and revealed throughout his Word.

*I will give thanks to the LORD because of his righteousness and will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High. Psalm 7:17*

9. Read Psalm 7:17. Do you thank God because of His righteousness? Why or Why not? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

God, in his righteousness is the sovereign (supreme) administrator of justice. David, in Psalm 7:17 is secure in his God. He knows that the righteous God can save him from his enemies. God is the righteous Deliverer. Nothing, not any being, place or thing can withstand his righteous rule. He has the power to enforce his judgments and may punish or reward accordingly.

10. What if God was righteous but not very powerful? What if God was all powerful but not righteous? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If God were righteous and not very powerful, he could not enforce his laws. His people would have no protection from their enemies and, evil men including the devil himself might never be called to account for their terrible deeds. If he were powerful and not righteous, people would never have any peace in understanding his will or desires for their lives. You and I would live in constant fear, never knowing what God wanted from us.

*"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. <sup>6</sup> In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness."* <sup>NIV</sup> Jeremiah 23:5-6

**11.** In Jeremiah 23:5, who is the righteous Branch, the King? (Acts 7:52)

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### **God the Father and God the Son share the Name, The LORD Our Righteousness.**

Although Jeremiah is speaking of his present day and the Israelite's freedom from the Babylonians, he is also prophesying about the Messiah. Jesus is the righteous Branch, the King and our High Priest who lives to intercede for us (Hebrews 7:25-26). He is the Righteous One.

When we speak of God's righteousness we are also speaking of God's justice. In biblical Hebrew, the word translated for righteousness, tsedeq (צֶדֶק) in Jeremiah 23:6 also means justice. They didn't differentiate the words like the English language does today. Thus when we speak of God as being righteous we are also saying that God is just. He gives the right consideration to everyone's claims and treats them accordingly. He is a fair Judge. Now, justice demands that all crimes be punished. Mercy, on the other hand, calls for refraining from punishment. Mercy is also one of God's holy attributes (Exodus 34:6). How can God be both just and merciful at the same time?

God's justice and mercy met in Christ on the cross. We are the sinners who deserve punishment for our sins and yet God's Son, in unfathomable mercy, paid the penalty of those crimes. Now in Christ it is not only possible but required that Christians also act justly and love mercy. He has given us the example to follow and the gospel message to share.

*The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone,<sup>24</sup> but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness-- for us who believe in him who raised*

*Jesus our Lord from the dead.*<sup>25</sup> *He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.*

<sup>NIV</sup> Romans 4:23-25

**12.** Read Romans 4:23-25. How are we righteous and share in God's attribute of righteousness? \_\_\_\_\_

**13.** Believers still sin, so how can you be called to live up to God's standard and be righteous in his sight? (Hebrews 9:14; Ephesians 4:21-24, 1 John 1:8-10, Romans 6)

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Our righteousness is credited to us through the blood of Jesus Christ who paid the penalty for our sins. Although we do not cherish sin anymore, we can still do wrong things. When this happens, we agree with God that we have sinned and ask forgiveness based on our faith and trust in Christ and his sacrifice on the cross. We use our free will to repent, that is, we turn from doing that particular sin. As Jesus taught, we should pray for help to keep us from temptation because the *spirit is willing, but the body is weak* (Mark 14:38). God gives us grace to follow him.

**Enclosed are two addendums that you might find useful. One is entitled, "Why Christians Sin?" and the other, "Contemplative Confession Guide."**

Although I try to confess whenever I become aware of my sins, I do use the "Contemplative Confession Guide" once a week. In this way, I give the Holy Spirit opportunity to bring sins to mind that I might not ordinarily see in my life.

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**Personal Application: You are secure in God's righteousness. Give praise to his name:**

*But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.*<sup>NIV</sup> Psalm 5:11

*We give thanks to you, O God, we give thanks, for your Name is near; men tell of your wonderful deeds.*<sup>NIV</sup> Psalm 75:1

*In Judah God is known; his name is great in Israel.*<sup>NIV</sup> Psalm 76:1

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## Lesson 7: The Name (Day Three) The Shepherd

A shepherd is one who watches, tends or keeps a flock of sheep. Sheep are grass eating animals that were important in ancient Israel. They were used for their fleece, hide, meat, milk and also as an offering in the sacrificial system. Yes, sheep were significant in Israel's economy.

Sheep needed and still need a lot of care for them to be healthy and useful. Not only are they subject to attack by other wild animals but they have certain characteristics that keep them from being successful as solitary or independent animals. They are skittish (jumpy), tend to overeate, attract parasites and aren't able to keep their woolly hair manageable. The fleece can actually grow and become heavy and cause the sheep to fall over from its weight.<sup>3</sup>

Not every sheep herder is willing to do what is necessary to have healthy and productive sheep. Thus there are good shepherds who are concerned about their sheep and bad shepherds who are not. David, who wrote the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, knew the difference between the two. Being a good shepherd himself, he was even willing to risk his life for his sheep. The Bible tells us that he fought both bear and lion to keep his flock safe (1 Samuel 17:36).

### Yahweh Rohi – The LORD is my Shepherd

*The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.* Psalm 23:1

*for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.*  
Psalm 95:7a

In the Bible sheep are used in various instances to symbolize God's people. God often uses what his people know and understand in the physical world to help them relate to him in the spiritual world. For example, sheep can wander off, loose sight of the shepherd and become lost. In Isaiah 53:6 God tells us that we are like sheep and go astray (lost, off track).

1. What are some other ways that people are like sheep? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>3</sup> *A Shepherd Looks At Psalm 23* by Phillip Keller is an insightful guide that you might want to read. Published in 1970 by Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, MI.

2. What are some ways that God is a shepherd to his people? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. How has God been your shepherd? \_\_\_\_\_

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David was not the first person to think of God as his shepherd. God established this particular name and how it relates to his people in the first book of the Bible. He then uses this strong and tender name throughout Scripture. It is a holy and meaningful picture of our God.

*Then he blessed Joseph and said, "May the God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day,"*  
Genesis 48:15

4. How long did Jacob (Israel) say that God had been his shepherd?

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*"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."* John 10:11

5. Read John 10:11. Who is speaking in this verse? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Does God the Father and God the Son share the name Shepherd? Yes No  
(Circle One)

7. How did the Good Shepherd lay down his life for you? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Can you be a shepherd to a flock or group of people? Yes No Maybe (Circle One) Explain your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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9. As a shepherd following Christ, how do you lay down your life for your sheep or people?

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*For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."*  
Revelation 7:17

**10.** Read Revelation 7:17. What are two other things the Shepherd will do for you as a sheep of his pasture?

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Jesus, the Lamb and Shepherd leads his sheep to springs of living water. In Revelation 7:17, living water means eternal life. Not only will the Shepherd's sheep receive everlasting life, but they will receive a life with no tears. God's people will be filled with eternal peace and joy.

*Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." John 21:16*

**11.** Read John 21:16. What does Jesus ask Peter to do? Is He asking you the same thing?

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**12.** What are some specific ways that a Christian leader is a good shepherd of sheep? (Suggestions to get you started: Matthew 4:19, 5:38-42, James 5:13, John 10:9-16, 21:15-17)

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**Personal Application: Pray**

O Great and Good Shepherd,

Who else is so loving and caring? I am the sheep of your pasture and have every good thing I need. Your tender mercies are new every morning. Thank you for seeking me when I was lost and calling me back when I stray. I am forever indebted to you for laying down your life for me, a worthless sheep.

Thank You for continually protecting me from the evil one who wants to destroy me. No one can do anything to me except by your permission. If I'm caught in a trap or hindered in anyway, I know you will release me in perfect timing.

Now my Great and Good Shepherd, I ask that you teach me to be a shepherd like you. Help me to lead, guide, serve, encourage, forgive and lay down my life in Jesus' name. Thank you for your Holy Spirit who will enable and anoint me for this holy service for your glory! Amen.

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### **Lesson 7: The Name (Day Four) I AM**

We now turn our attention to the name that God said was to be remembered from generation to generation (Exodus 3:14-15). It is a powerful name that encompasses some of God's exclusive attributes. The Jews were so afraid of misusing this great Name that they would not even speak it. This is still true of religious Jews living today.

All of God's names are to be revered (honored) and not misused. The Bible makes this clear (Exodus 20:7: Matthew 6:9). But it is equally important to lovingly and respectfully speak the names that God has revealed to us in Scripture. If God didn't want us to speak or meditate on his names, he wouldn't have revealed them to us.

It reminds me of the story of the talents (Matthew 25:15-29). Recall the servant who received one talent. He hid it for fear of losing it and having to face a tough master. The master was not pleased at all. In the same way God is a righteous Master and he will punish anyone who misuses his name. However, like the earthly master wanted his talents increased and not hidden, God wants the proper use of his name increased and not hidden away. He desires his name to be praised and honored among the nations.

Using God's name in a flippant or jokingly way is also wrong. This includes any names of the Triune God. He is not a God to trifle with in humor or jest. He created us to have wholesome humor but we are surely guilty if we say or use God's names, including Jesus, in a frivolous or unworthy manner.

God has given us his name as a pure gift of revelation and love. Let us return this gift with our love and respect. Let us be thankful and always, always use the NAME properly.

1. How do you speak about or make reference God? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What do you do when any of God's names are misused by friend, foe, radio, T.V, CD etc?

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3. Do you think that God will hold you responsible for your response to other's misuse of his Name? Why? Why Not? \_\_\_\_\_

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When a friend or foe is misusing God's name, we can kindly ask them to stop. We can also explain why it is not a good idea. With the media, we can pray that God will stop it. We could also write to those in charge of the programming or the movie and ask them to stop. At the very least, we should remove ourselves from the offending party or program.

**YAHWEH – I AM, HE IS**

*Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"<sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" Exodus 3:13-14*

4. In Exodus 3:13, when Moses asked God for his name, what name did God give to him?

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5. After God gave Moses His name, what further instructions did God give?

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In the Hebrew text, the word God uses for his name, I AM, is EHYEH (אֲנִי־אֶהְיֶה). It is the first person, singular, qal, imperfect tense of the verb to be. Qal means that this verb is simple active. Context, syntax and grammar give words various meanings and nuances. God has his name written in the imperfect which has the sense of an incomplete action. This means that this verb can also be rendered: I will be. In fact, in the previous verse Exodus 3:12, the same verb is translated I will be. Thus we see Almighty God who is, and who was and who is to come, is timeless (Revelation 1:8).

When we use God's name we say YAHWEH (YHWH), HE IS. The word is the third person, masculine, singular, qal, imperfect of the verb to be. This is the name

that Moses uses when he goes to the Israelites and tells them that YAHWEH (HE IS) has sent me to you.

In English, the verb to be can mean to have existence, remain or continue. It can also mean to live, occupy a position, to have a certain identity or to become.<sup>4</sup> Trying to get the real sense and meaning of EHYEH (אֲהִיֶּה), God's name has been translated:

I AM THE ONE WHO ALWAYS IS (NLT)

I AM THAT WHICH IS (YLT)

I am he who is (NJB)

I AM THE BEING

The One who Eternally Exists

The Self Existent One

God is not restricted by time, space or matter. He created all three when he created the universe. God acts within the time and space that he created but he is also outside of it. God is timeless and eternal, with no beginning and no end. Thus when God says I AM, he is revealing his self-existent nature. He is dependent on no one. However, all is dependent on him.

When God says I AM, he is not saying that he is only here or only there or somewhere else. He exists everywhere (Jeremiah: 23-24, Psalm 139:7-10). He is omnipresent (Omni means all in Latin). God's omnipresence is difficult for us to understand because we live in time and space surrounded by matter. For example, it does *not* mean that God is just very large and fills all space. It *does* mean that God has the ability to act in different ways at any time or in any place that he chooses. God has the ability to relate and act differently as circumstances arise. However, in these different circumstances, he will always act according to his holy nature.

6. How does studying the name YHWH change your perspective on God?

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*"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"<sup>59</sup> At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds. John 8:58*

<sup>4</sup> Oxford American Dictionary, Eugene Ehrlick, Oxford University Pres, New Your, 1980.

7. Read John 8:58. What name does Jesus call himself? \_\_\_\_\_

8. When Jesus called himself “I am,” why did the Jews attempt to stone him?  
(Leviticus 24:16)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. What name does God the Father and God the Son share and we do not?

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*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.<sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.<sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*  
Colossians 1:15-17

10. Read Colossians 1:15-17. Who is the image of the invisible God? \_\_\_\_\_

11. In Colossians 1:17, who do we depend on to keep our world together? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Why should Jesus’ name be revered and kept holy? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Personal Application:** Share with someone today or tomorrow the truth of God and Jesus being one, and sharing the same holy name, YAWEH. Write about what happened:

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**Lesson 7: The Name (Day Five) In His Name**

We looked at three names that God the Father and God the Son share: *The LORD our Righteousness, The Good Shepherd and YHWH*. Sharing the same name is another powerful testimony to the fact that Jesus and the Father are one. Recall that God’s name is synonymous (identical) to himself. No one could call himself YHWH except God.

*I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name-- the name you gave me-- so that they may be one as we are one.<sup>12</sup> While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. John 17:11-12*

1. Read John 17:11-12. Jesus prayed to the Father to protect his disciples by the power of his name. Since all but John (& Judas) were martyred, how was Jesus' prayer answered?

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Jesus was praying that God would keep the disciples in his name. He wanted the disciples to be one with the Father and himself rather than being lost to eternal damnation. Jesus was not praying that their body would remain safe but their soul or spirit would be true to God. Jesus' prayer was answered in that all his disciples, except Judas remained faithful - even to death.

2. As a leader, how will you refine your prayers for those you are discipling?

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*And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.<sup>14</sup> You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. John 14:13-14*

3. Explain what Jesus is saying in John 14:13-14. \_\_\_\_\_

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There is a key point to remember in asking in Jesus' name. In Jesus and in his name means that you are dwelling in or living in him. It means that you are standing firm and following God daily. Your desire is to bring honor to him and not to yourself. You have the Father's heart and your prayer requests match up with what he wants to accomplish through you.

*His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.<sup>41</sup> The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.<sup>NIV</sup> Acts 5:40-41*

4. Read Acts 5:40-41. Did Jesus' name keep the apostles from being flogged? Y  
N (Circle One)

5. After the flogging, why did the apostles leave rejoicing?

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6. The apostles suffered physical pain and disgrace because of Jesus' name. How  
does this square or work with John 14:13-14 and John 17:11-12? \_\_\_\_\_

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Jesus suffered both emotional and physical persecution while he walked the earth  
in human skin. Being in Jesus or living in his name means that we may be called  
to suffer in similar ways. The servant is not greater than the Master. In John 14  
and 17, Jesus is not promising anything other than a life lived victoriously through  
him.

*But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31*

7. Read John 20:31. Explain the kind of life that you personally have in Jesus'  
name? \_\_\_\_\_

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*However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names  
are written in heaven." Luke 10:20 (Revelation 21:27)*

8. According to Luke 10:20, what should you rejoice about?

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*I will praise you forever for what you have done; in your name I will hope, for  
your name is good. I will praise you in the presence of your saints. Psalm 52:9*

9. Read Psalm 52:9. Where do you place your hope?

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10. Why do you place your hope in God's name?

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**Personal Application: Memorize Isaiah 26:8 and 42:8**

*Yes, LORD, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts.* <sup>NIV</sup> Isaiah 26:8

*"I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols.*

<sup>NIV</sup> Isaiah 42:8

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**Next: Lesson 8 - Part One: Active Leadership Mission**

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