

Spiritual Trainer Series

*Names
Of God*

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Names Of God

*And I will do whatever you ask in my name,
so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.
(John 14:13)*

Did you know that the Bible uses more than 200 names for God, each given to teach you about various aspects of who He is and about the relationship He wants to have with you? By studying God's names and using them when you pray, you are demonstrating that you want to know Him better. It also shows that you recognize His ability to help you in every area of your life. God wants you to praise His name for who He is!

Learning the names of God is similar to asking someone you meet for the first time, "What's your name?," "Where are you from?," "What do you do for a living?," and "What are your interests?" For example, you meet a man. You learn that his name is John, that he is a midwesterner from Chicago, that he is a teacher, a grandparent, a churchgoer who is new to his faith, and that he likes golf. Words like *midwesterner*, *teacher*, *grandparent*, *churchgoer*, and *golfer* are names that give you more insight into who John is and how you might relate to him about common interests.

Likewise, God wants you to get to know Him and relate to Him!

God created the idea of *names*.

Names have been important to God since the beginning of time. The book of Genesis tells us that He assigned names to things He created:

*God saw that the light was good,
and he separated the light from the darkness.
God called the light "day," and the
darkness he called "night."
(Genesis 1:4-5)*

He gave names to all things as He created them: the sky, seas, dry land, and so forth. When God created the beasts of the field and the birds of the air, He brought them to Adam in the Garden of Eden to be named.

*He brought them to the man to see
what he would name them; and
whatever the man called each living creature,
that was its name.
(Genesis 2:19)*

- ❖ The God who created the world is the same God who created you, and He desires a close and personal relationship with you. He knows everything about you. If you knew more about Him, His names, and how to call upon Him in every situation in your life, what difference would it make in your life?

*Those who know your name will trust in you,
for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.
(Psalm 9:10)*

A Word about the Trinity:

God is a triune God, meaning He is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Some of the names you will learn in this session apply to all three persons of the Godhead, while others are specific to the person of God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit. For example, Jesus is often called upon by these names:

Rock to build your life upon (Deuteronomy 32:4)

Savior who gives the gift of eternal life (2 Samuel 22:2)

Ruler who has all authority in heaven and earth
(Ephesians 1:21)

Shepherd who watches over you (Psalm 23:1)

Lord who reigns above all (Genesis 2:4)

The Way, the Truth, and the Life, who leads you
(John 14:6)

- ❖ If you were to pick one name from this list to focus on this coming week, which one would help you the most?

Increased study, contemplation, and prayer using a variety of names will bring more intimacy with God in every aspect of who He is. For example...

Jesus is the Prince of Peace

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.*

*And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
(Isaiah 9:6)*

Look to the **Prince of Peace** in times of worry,
stress, fear, or doubt.

Jesus is your Peace. If you haven't already done so, make peace with Jesus (by saying a brief prayer to that effect) because He is the only one who is able to create peace within you. In the midst of life's storms, pray to Him for peace of mind. You will become calm when you invite Jesus into the situations of your life. His presence will strengthen you and give you a peace that surpasses understanding.

- ❖ What storms are you currently facing that cause you to worry? Ask Jesus for peace in the midst of those storms.

Prayer: Pray to the *Prince of Peace* to help you live in peace with yourself, those around you, and all the circumstances of life.

The Holy Spirit is a Counselor

*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you
another Counselor to be with you forever.
(John 14:16)*

As a child of God, you always have a **Counselor** with you.

The Holy Spirit is your Counselor. You may sometimes feel that you are alone, but you are not. You have Jesus' word that He would send a Counselor to be with you forever. The Holy Spirit never tires of counseling, helping, and comforting you. During difficult times, you might wisely turn to your spouse, a friend, or a church counselor; however, remember to always turn first and last to the Holy Spirit. There is no need to make an appointment with Him! He is only a prayer away.

- ❖ How can your personal Counselor help you today with a decision you are facing, an attitude you want to change, a temptation you are struggling with, etc.?

But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.
(John 14:26)

God is I Am

*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 3:14)

The name I Am refers to God's eternal presence with you—to His timelessness! It is similar to the Hebrew term *Yahweh*, which is used more than 6,000 times in the Old Testament. Think about the power that this name, the *Great I Am*, holds when you cry out to God who existed before the very foundation of the world.

- ❖ How does it make you feel to know that the *Great I Am* wants to hear from you so He can help you?

Call to Action

Prayer: Ask God to show you more and more about Him every day. Invite Him to teach you to pray His names, so you will learn to rely on Him and trust Him in every situation of your life.

Read through the following five topical sections on the names of God as they pertain to Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry, and Evangelism. The names have been divided into these categories to help you focus on praying specific names of God that will help you fulfill His purposes for your life. For example, if you truly worship God as the *Author of Life*, you will be more likely to submit to His plans for your life.

In addition to reading, answer the questions and review the Action Steps for each section. If you choose to do an in-depth search of any of the names listed below, don't forget how easy it is to use the online Bible searching tools at

www.saddleback.com/maturity (click on the link **Online Growth**).

Worship

- All-powerful Creator (Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 40:28)
- Author of Life (Acts 3:15)
- God Almighty (Genesis 17:1; Revelation 1:8)
- Judge of the World (2 Timothy 4:8)
- Our Only Sovereign with all authority to rule (Jude 1:4)
- Great King and Ruler (Matthew 5:35; 1 Timothy 6:15)
- The God Who Sees You (Genesis 16:13)

- ❖ How can the name, *God Almighty*, give you comfort and reassurance in regard to world events?
- ❖ Think of a time when you were at work or perhaps on the freeway. Would it have changed your behavior if you had been praying to the *God Who Sees You*? If so, how?

Consider choosing one Worship Action Step:

1. Pause to appreciate and praise God as the *Author of Life* when you see new life in nature or a newborn. Recognize and thank Him for the incredible world you live in.
2. Think of God as the all-powerful Creator when you see the stars. There are more than one million galaxies, and the God you serve made them all. What a reason to use the name, *Creator*, in your worship!

Fellowship

- Abba Father (Galatians 4:6). Abba is an Aramaic word that was used by a child as a term of endearment for a parent. It can be translated *Papa* or *Daddy*. When the term *Abba Father* is used, it expresses the idea of love and trust.
- Immanuel (Matthew 1:23). God is with you. He is closer than a brother.
- Bridegroom (John 3:29). You are the bride who *belongs to* the Bridegroom.
- Shade from the heat (Isaiah 25:4)
- Hiding Place and Refuge in times of trouble (Psalm 32:7; Nahum 1:7)

- Vine (John 15:5). Jesus is the Vine, and you are the branch.
- Provider (Genesis 22:14; Matthew 6:31-34)
- Advocate (Job 16:19). Jesus will be your advocate when you stand before God at the end of your life.
- ❖ What happens to a branch if it is cut off from a vine? Praying with the name, *Vine*, will help you remember that truth.
- ❖ During Jesus' day, the focus at a wedding was on the bridegroom, not the bride! The bridegroom was considered more important because he was willing to sacrifice for his bride. How can the name, *Bridegroom*, help you personally grow in appreciation for His love?

Consider choosing one Fellowship Action Step:

1. Immanuel means *God with Us*. If God seems distant to you, perhaps He is waiting for you to acknowledge Him as *Immanuel*. Invite Him to be with you day and night.
2. Pray to God and recognize His role as a strong, protective father. Refer to Him as a Stronghold in your times of trouble and a Fortress in stress-filled times. Ask Him to be your Shield and a Place of Protection.

Discipleship

- Teacher (Matthew 19:16)
- Potter (Isaiah 64:8). God is the Potter, and you are the clay.
- Sanctifier (Leviticus 20:8). Making you holy like Jesus

- Righteousness (Jeremiah 23:6). The One who is right
- Present with you (Deuteronomy 4:29). You are never alone.
- The Word (John 1:14). God in the flesh of Christ who came to earth
- ❖ In what areas of your life do you need to be reminded that God is the Potter and you are the clay?

Consider choosing one Discipleship Action Step:

1. Listen for the gentle whispers of God, the *Sanctifier*, when you have your time alone with the Lord and as you go about the busyness of your day.
2. Pray to God, the *Word* and the *Teacher*, for clarity when you study your Bible.

Ministry

- Servant (John 13:12)
- Strength that God provides (1 Peter 4:11)
- Comfort (Isaiah 43:2)
- Healer (Exodus 15:26)
- Power to serve (John 14:12)
- ❖ How would praying to the *Servant*, who washed His disciples' feet, help you become a better servant?

Consider choosing one Ministerial Action Step:

1. Look up the Scripture reference for one of these names. Read several verses before and after it to put the passage in context.
2. Ask for the *Strength* that God provides to help you get (more) involved in a ministry, perhaps one that you may have been reluctant to try.

Evangelism

- Light of the World (John 8:12). You are to reflect His light.
 - Redeemer (Job 19:25)
 - Lord of the Harvest (Luke 10:2)
 - Bread of Life (John 6:35). For all who hunger spiritually
 - Savior of the World (John 4:25-26). Messiah
 - Lamb (Revelation 5:6)
-
- ❖ Focus on the name *Savior of the World*. How does the power of that name affect your perception of your role as a missionary for Christ?
 - ❖ In your opinion, what name of God best reflects the critical value He places on reaching the *lost*? Explain.

Consider choosing one Evangelistic Action Step:

1. Using one of God's names, pray for an unbelieving friend.
2. Is there any reason that keeps you from sharing the Good News? If so, what name of God could you pray to help you overcome your hesitation?

Great Resource

Names of God by Nathan Stone (Chicago: Moody Bible Institute) 1944.

This classic study examines the Old Testament names of God and the particular aspect of His character and dealings with man that each reveals.

Spiritual Trainer Challenge

Is the Holy Spirit encouraging you to be a Spiritual Trainer to another Christian in the area of the names of God? Is someone in your family, small group, or ministry ready to take the next step in his or her spiritual walk? Would you like to share this booklet with a parent, child, sibling, friend, neighbor, or co-worker? If so, here are simple steps you can take:

Things You Can Do to Prayerfully Prepare for a Spiritual Training Appointment

1. Pick up a copy of *Life Training: Spiritual Habits* and read through it. This booklet will give you a good understanding of why it is important to develop spiritual habits like time alone with God, confession and repentance, prayer, Scripture memorization, worship, contentment, praying the names of God, etc. It will also give you some excellent advice on how to be a great trainer/discipler.
2. Ask someone if he/she (same-sex as yourself, unless it is a family member or your fiancé) would like you to disciple him/her using this booklet, *Names of God*. Pick up a copy for that person. Set a date and time for a one-hour meeting—with a reminder to bring a Bible.
3. Re-read this booklet, *Names of God*, paying special attention to how it is organized and what sections helped you the most.

Things to Do During the Appointment

Important Note: This lesson has nine sections, each of which will take approximately five minutes. So, you will probably need 45 minutes to cover the content of the lesson. **Please allow 60 minutes for the entire discipleship session, including fellowship and prayer requests.**

1. Open with a brief prayer and a few minutes of fellowship.
2. Read through the booklet with your trainee, taking turns sharing the reading. Ask your trainee the questions as you move through the material. Take your time; don't rush.
3. For the "Call to Action" section, slow the pace as you pray, answer any questions, and discuss the action steps.

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Thank you for using the Saddleback Church Spiritual Trainer Series materials entitled *Names of God*. We hope that this has been a beneficial experience and has provided you with an opportunity to draw closer to God.

If you are interested in exploring more of the Saddleback Spiritual Trainer Series tools, please call the Maturity Team at Saddleback Church, (949) 609-8201.
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