

# What's in a Name?

## The Names of Jesus

### Lessons from the Bible: John 1:1-50

#### INTRO:

##### Why are names important?

They tell you what to call something; they describe something. **Names in Bible times were very important.** Most of the time, family names were passed from father to son. Many times names were given to a baby to describe physical or personality traits. Some names even referred to what the child would be like in the future.

Take some time to talk with the children about names in their families and what they mean.

What about our names? Were you named after anyone special? Do you have special nicknames that maybe your parents, grandparents or brother & sisters call you? Do they have special meanings?

One person, in scripture, who is called by many names, is **Jesus**. He even called Himself by many names. And all of the names of Jesus teach us more about who He is.

## Bible Lesson:

### Read: John 1:1-50

#### Christ Comes to the World

**1** Before the world began, there was the Word.<sup>Ⓜ</sup> The Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was with God in the beginning. **3** All things were made through him. Nothing was made without him. **4** In him there was life. That life was light for the people of the world. **5** The Light shines in the darkness. And the darkness has not overpowered<sup>Ⓜ</sup> the Light.

**6** There was a man named John<sup>Ⓜ</sup> who was sent by God. **7** He came to tell people about the Light. Through him all people could hear about the Light and believe. **8** John was not the Light, but he came to tell people about the Light. **9** The true Light was coming into the world. The true Light gives light to all.

**10** The Word was in the world. The world was made through him, but the world did not know him. **11** He came to the world that was his own. But his own people did not accept him. **12** But some people did accept him. They believed in him. To them he gave the right to become children of God. **13** They did not become his children in the human way. They were not born because of the desire or wish of some man. They were born of God.

**14** The Word became a man and lived among us. We saw his glory—the glory that belongs to the only Son of the Father. The Word was full of grace and truth. **15** John told about him. He said, “This is the One I was talking about. I said, ‘The One who comes after me is greater than I am. He was living before me.’”

**16** The Word was full of grace and truth. From him we all received more and more blessings. **17** The law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **18** No man has ever seen God. But God the only Son is very close to the Father.<sup>Ⓜ</sup> And the Son has shown us what God is like.

#### John Tells People About Jesus

**19** The Jews in Jerusalem sent some priests and Levites to John.<sup>Ⓜ</sup> The Jews sent them to ask, “Who are you?”

**20** John spoke freely and did not refuse to answer. He said clearly, “I am not the Christ.”

**21** So they asked him, “Then who are you? Are you Elijah?”<sup>Ⓜ</sup>

He answered, "No, I am not Elijah."

Then they asked, "Are you the Prophet?"<sup>[a]</sup>

He answered, "No, I am not the Prophet."

<sup>22</sup> Then they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to tell those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

<sup>23</sup> John told them in the words of the prophet Isaiah:

"I am the voice of a man  
calling out in the desert:

'Make the road straight for the Lord.'" *Isaiah 40:3*

<sup>24</sup> In the group of Jews who were sent, there were some Pharisees. <sup>25</sup> They said to John: "You say you are not the Christ. You say you are not Elijah or the Prophet. Then why do you baptize people?"

<sup>26</sup> John answered, "I baptize people with water. But there is one here with you that you don't know. <sup>27</sup> He is the One who comes after me. I am not good enough to untie the strings of his sandals."

<sup>28</sup> This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan River. This is where John was baptizing people.

<sup>29</sup> The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him. John said, "Look, the Lamb of God.<sup>[a]</sup> He takes away the sins of the world! <sup>30</sup> This is the One I was talking about. I said, 'A man will come after me, but he is greater than I am, because he was living before me.' <sup>31</sup> Even I did not know who he was. But I came baptizing with water so that the people of Israel could know who he is."

<sup>32-33</sup> Then John said, "I did not know who the Christ was. But God sent me to baptize with water. And God told me, 'You will see the Spirit come down and rest on a man. That man is the One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'" John said, "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven. The Spirit looked like a dove and rested on him. <sup>34</sup> I have seen this happen. So I tell people: 'He is the Son of God.'"<sup>[a]</sup>

## **The First Followers of Jesus**

<sup>35</sup> The next day John<sup>[a]</sup> was there again with two of his followers. <sup>36</sup> He saw Jesus walking by and said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>37</sup> The two followers heard John say this. So they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> Jesus turned and saw them following him. He asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi, where are you staying?" ("Rabbi" means "Teacher.")

<sup>39</sup> Jesus answered, "Come with me and you will see." So the two men went with Jesus. They saw the place where Jesus was staying and stayed there with him that day. It was then about four o'clock.

<sup>40</sup> These two men followed Jesus after they heard about him from John. One of the men was Andrew. He was Simon Peter's brother. <sup>41</sup> The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother, Simon. He said to Simon, "We have found the Messiah." ("Messiah" means "Christ.")

<sup>42</sup> Then Andrew took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked at Simon and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas." ("Cephas" means "Peter.")

<sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." <sup>44</sup> Philip was from the town of Bethsaida, where Andrew and Peter lived. <sup>45</sup> Philip found Nathanael and told him, "Remember that Moses wrote in the law about a man who was coming, and the prophets also wrote about him. We have found him. He is Jesus, the son of Joseph. He is from Nazareth."

<sup>46</sup> But Nathanael said to Philip, "Nazareth! Can anything good come from Nazareth?"

Philip answered, "Come and see."

<sup>47</sup> Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him. He said, "Here is truly a person of Israel. There is nothing false in him."

<sup>48</sup> Nathanael asked, "How do you know me?"

Jesus answered, "I saw you when you were under the fig tree. That was before Philip told you about me."

<sup>49</sup> Then Nathanael said to Jesus, "Teacher, you are the Son of God. You are the King of Israel."

<sup>50</sup> Jesus said to Nathanael, "You believe in me because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. But you will see greater things than that!" <sup>51</sup> And Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth. You will all see heaven open. You will see 'angels of God going up and coming down' on the Son of Man."

## Discussion:

### The Different Names of Jesus:

- **1. Immanuel** – This means “God with us.” Jesus left His glory in heaven and came to this earth to take on our human form. We start out as a baby, so He did as well. We grow up. So did He. Because he went through many of the same physical developments we do, He can empathize with us as we grow. He is perfect, we are not.
- **2. The Door** – Jesus called Himself “The Door” because He is the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but through Him. We must believe in Him and walk through the door to receive the gift of eternal life.
- **3. The Vine** – He is the vine. We are the branches. If branches are cut off from the vine, they die. Jesus is what gives us life eternally.
- **4. The Giver of Living Water** – Jesus told the woman at the well that if she drank from the Living Water that she would never thirst again. **How long can people live without water?** [not very long; 2-3 days] Water gives life. Without it we die. Jesus gives life. Without Him we die apart from God.
- **5. The Light of the World** – Jesus is the Light that shines in the darkness of a world full of sin. **What happens when a light is turned on in a dark room?** [the darkness disappears] Only Jesus is the One who can make the blackness of our sin go away. – John 8:12
- **6. The Bright and Morning Star** – **Who followed the star to Bethlehem?** [The Magi] **Who are we to follow?** [Jesus] We are to follow His ways, read and know His words, and follow His commands.
- **7. The Lion from the Tribe of Judah** – Jesus was a descendant of Judah, Jacob’s son, to whom the promise of God was passed through generations before Jesus was born. Jesus was the answer to that promise. **What is a lion like?** [strong; king of the jungle; majestic; protective; a royal symbol] It is important for us to remember that Jesus is holy, majestic, strong, and protective of His children.
- **8. The Lamb of God** – **What story of the Bible do you think of when you hear this name?** [[The Passover](#)] The Hebrews sacrificed the lambs and put blood over “The Doors.” The lamb was to be without blemish, perfect. Jesus was perfect and when He died on the cross. He was sacrificed for our sins.

- **9. The Good Shepherd – Why do sheep need a shepherd?** [sheep aren't very smart; they cannot find their own food or water; they get eaten by predators]. Jesus is our Shepherd. He knows things that we don't. We aren't too smart sometimes. We can make bad decisions. If we listen to His voice through the Holy Spirit, then He can guide us onto the paths He wants us to go. We just have to follow Him.
- **10. King or Kings and Lord of Lords – Historically and Biblically, who is usually named as the greatest king ever?** [Solomon] But Jesus is even greater than Solomon because Jesus is God. There is no person greater than Jesus. He is the Only King. And all other nations and leaders will bow down to Him one day.
- **11. The Bread of Life – How long can people live without food?** [maybe a week] Food gives our bodies what it needs to work properly. Without food or certain nutrients, our body can become sick. If we don't read God's word and take it into our hearts, then we can become spiritually hungry. We will lack what we need to survive in this world. We are to read the word; taste and see that the Lord is good. John 6:35
- **12. Savior - Are you excited about opening presents? [yes!]** There is one gift you need to know about. **Why do people need a Savior?** [because we are sinful and cannot have a relationship with God because of that sin.] For God loved the world so much that he GAVE His son...to take our place on the cross. All you have to do is accept God's gift of Jesus by believing in Him. Confess with your mouth that Jesus will be your Lord and King and you will be saved.
- **13. Good News** – The angels told the shepherds the "good news of great joy!" A baby had been born who would be the Messiah, the Savior of God's people. When Jesus went up to heaven, He told his disciples to go out and preach the gospel (Good News!) to all people. If you have Jesus in your heart, if He has saved you from your sins, then Christmas is a great time to tell others about the Good News. Jesus is not a gift for us to keep for ourselves, but one that we freely give to others.

**Memory Verse:** "For to us a child is born,  
And He will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace".

*Isaiah 9:6*

### Close in Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank You for giving us the gift of Jesus, the greatest Christmas gift of all. Please help me to remember why we celebrate. I am very thankful for the real reason for the season and, without Jesus, we wouldn't have Christmas! I love You and thank You for giving us this day!

In Jesus Name

Amen

### Craft:

Names of Jesus Christmas Wreath

Provided by Oriental Trading Company



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## Videos:

Story of birth of Jesus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3656G6tWuI>

## coloring page

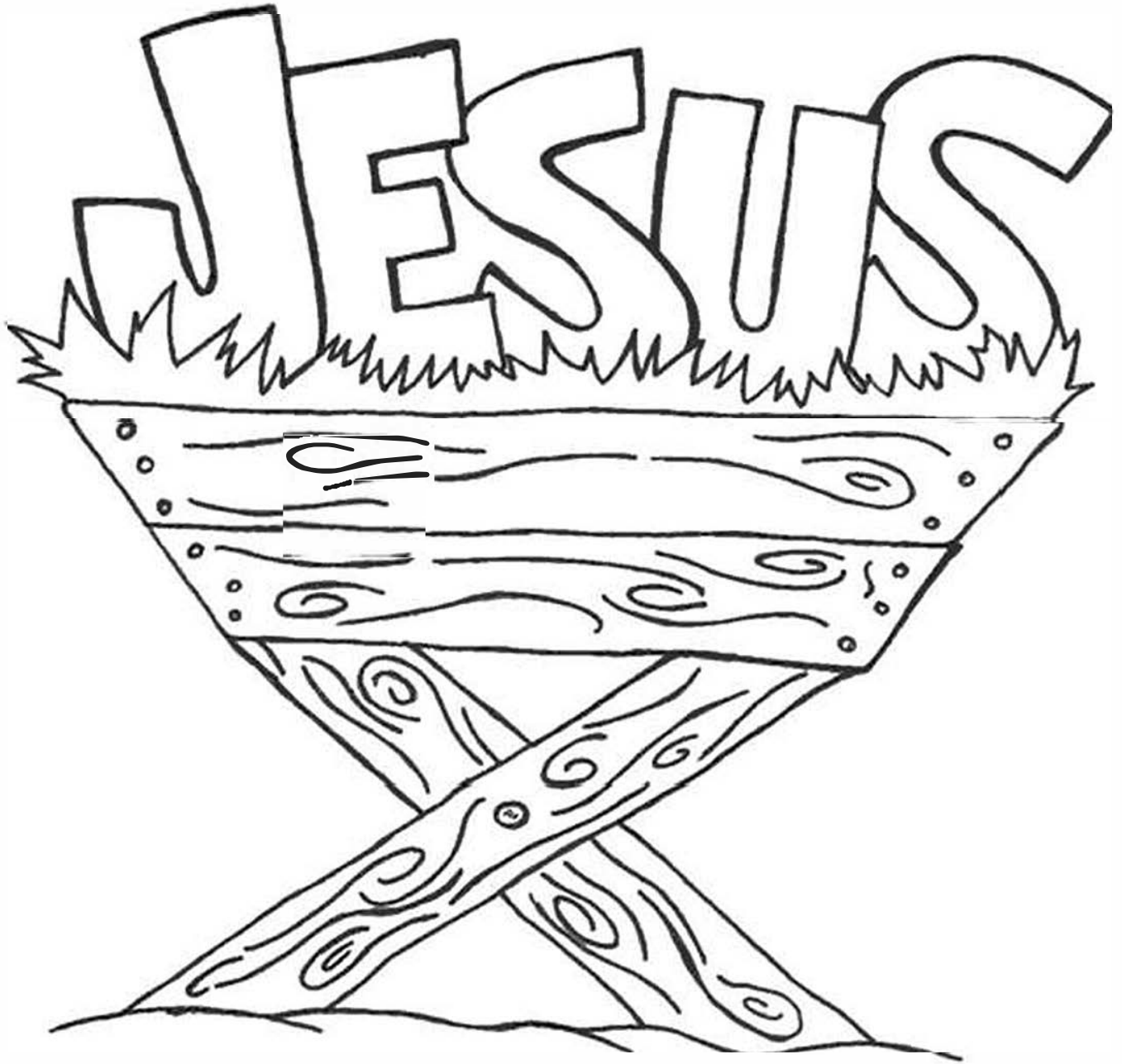
- Jesus name in Manger Coloring page

Feel free to take a picture of their art work or share how your activity went!  
Post it on our Facebook page or share it on GroupMe. Have a Blessed Day &  
Week! Until we can meet again

~ *Teacher Chrissy*

Thank you to <https://ministry-to-children.com/> for their resources and helping share the gospel with all children.





... and you shall call his name Jesus,  
for he will save his people from their sins.  
Matthew 1:21