

HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED...

“Lessons For Children On The Names of God”

Teacher Introduction

The God of the Old and New Testament is known by many names. These names help us understand his nature and reputation. They define him as Protector, Defender, Friend, Advisor, Judge, and Savior to name just a few. The Third Commandment says, “Do Not Misuse God’s Name.” But how can we obey this commandment, if we don’t understand who this God is that loves us? I hope that by studying the names of God, the children you teach will learn new respect and honor for the loving God we serve.

The lessons include a craft, game, memory work, and song-time suggestions*. The patterns and templates to accompany the craft and game ideas are found at the back of the book. If you use both the craft and game for each session, it will take ten, two-hour sessions to complete the book. However, if you split each lesson into two sessions (recommended), whereby you present the lesson, memory verse, craft and songs in the first session and the game with lesson review, memory recitation, and songs in the next session, it will take twenty, one-hour sessions to complete the book.

God bless you in your ministry to children!



Sarah A. Keith

* Suggested Songs

“My Best Friend,” “Victory Chant” - Group’s Singable Songs; “His Banner Over Me Is Love,” “Lily of the Valley,” “Jehovah Jirah,” “Blessed Be the Name of the LORD,” “All Hail The Power,” “Ancient of Days,” and any other song that pertains to the name of God is appropriate.

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Ask children to name the different ways we describe people we know. (Distribute index cards and pencils to children.) Have them write their names on the cards and describe themselves by completing the following sentence, “I am...,” and then writing the description on their card. (You might prompt them by giving an example, “I am kind.” “I am a good listener.” “I am an artist,” etc.)

Say: Have you ever wondered how we got our last names or what they mean*? For example, the last name, “Miller,” originally described a person’s job. A *miller* owned or worked in a grain mill grinding corn, wheat, or some other type of grain. And the name “Smith” described a metalworker. The name “North,” was a description of where a person lived, he lived “north” of a certain town. “Brown” described someone with brown hair or skin. People would refer to others by saying, *John the miller* or *Mike the smith* or *Rebecca from the north* or *Jim with brown skin*, is coming here or doing such and such. Eventually these titles were dropped and they became known as *John Miller*, *Mike Smith*, *Rebecca North* and *Jim Brown*.

Collect the cards and read a few of them. Read them off as name titles. For example, if someone wrote, “I am kind.” Read it back as, “Dana says, ‘I am kind’.” In other words, ‘Dana could be known as *Dana the kind* or *Dana Kind*.”

Names are very important. In the Bible, God is known by many names; these names describe who he is and help us understand his *nature and reputation*. What do you think I mean by this? (Receive answers)

God’s nature and reputation refer to the characteristics or qualities that describe him. For example, in Scripture God is known as our Protector, Defender, Friend, Guide, Judge, and Savior to name a few. The Third Commandment tells us, “Do Not Misuse God’s Name” or “Don’t take God’s name in vain.” God’s name is holy, which means it is set apart and to be respected. We are never to use his name unwisely or carelessly.

This semester we will discover some of God’s names, what they mean, who he is, what he’s done for us, and how much he loves us; and by doing so, we’ll hopefully learn to show him the honor and respect that is due him!

*For more information on the meaning of names, visit the following link:

<http://surnames.behindthename.com/>

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Lesson One

I AM, I am the Alpha & Omega

Focus: Jesus is our Creator and our Judge.
Colossians 1:15-20; 2 Timothy 4:1; Revelation: 22:13



Enrichment Idea: What's Your Name?

Have one child “act out” pantomime Moses’ part as you read the Scripture from Exodus 3:1-8a. Choose a few more children, or the rest of the class, to be the burning bush. (Have children, “the bush,” kneel in a tight circle. When they hear the word bush, they must wave their hands above their heads to represent the flames.)

Say: What would you do or say if you heard a voice speak from a bush? What would you ask the voice? (Who are you? What is your name?) When God called Moses to lead his people, the Israelites, out of Egypt, Moses asked God by what name he should call him.

Let's read Exodus 3:13-15 to learn what God said to Moses.

What do you think God's name, *I AM WHO I AM* means? (Receive answers.)

The phrase, I AM, WHO I AM, means that God is all that his people need. It expresses that he is dependable and that his people can trust him to take care of them.

Hundreds and hundreds of years after God showed himself to Moses, Jesus used the same two words, “I AM,” with phrases the people of his day would understand. For example, he said, *I Am the Good Shepherd* or *I Am the Vine*. If Jesus walked the earth today, he might say, *I Am the i-Phone —your connection to God!* When Jesus described himself with the phrase, “I AM,” it wasn't the same as our saying, “I am kind.” or “I am an artist.” The “I AM” phrase that Jesus said identified himself as the same God who showed himself to Moses—the God who created all things. And because he made that claim, the religious rulers of his day wanted to kill him.

Over the next several weeks, I want you to pay close attention to the names of God that contain the phrase, “I AM” to describe Jesus. (To encourage children to pay attention, you might give a candy reward to the first child who hears the “I Am” reference for the lesson of the day. Not every lesson has an “I AM” reference, so it makes it even more exciting when the children hear it.)

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If I were to say to you, “You can find everything in that store from A to Z!” What do you think that means? It means that store would have everything you could possibly want to buy. The Bible contains a similar saying for God. In the book of Revelation 22:13, Jesus said, “***I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.***” The book of Revelation was originally written in Greek. The Greek alphabet begins with the letter Alpha, and ends with the letter, Omega. Just like the A and the Z in our alphabet. The Alpha looks like our letter “A,” and the Omega looks sort of like an upside down “U.” This Bible verse says that Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, which means he was here before time began—he is the Creator of all things. And he’ll be here after time ends—he is the final Judge of all things. Jesus is eternal*.

This verse also tells us that Jesus is all we need. He is the First One we can talk to in the morning and the Last One we can talk to at night. He is the First One we can go to when we are having a difficult time. He is the Beginning of understanding God’s will for our lives and the Ending of understanding all we need to know to please God. Jesus is our Savior and Forever Friend!

* See: John 1:1-14, Colossians 1:15-20, 2 Timothy 4:1

Memory Verse

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End”
Revelation 22:13.

Memorization Technique: Vanishing Words

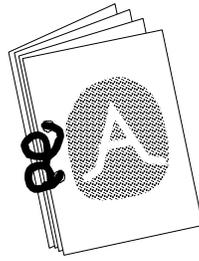
Write the verse on the board. Repeat it with the class a few times. Now erase two words, but underline the spaces where the words had been. Say the verse again. Continue saying the verse and erasing two words until the verse has completely vanished and only the underlines remain. You will be amazed at how your mind’s eye continues to see the words, and better yet, remembers them too!

Prayer

Dear Jesus, Our Alpha & Omega, help us understand that you are the Beginning and the End of all we need in our lives. Help us to trust you and put you first in all we think, do, and say. Amen.

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Craft: Alpha & Omega Potato Prints

The Alpha & Omega potato prints will be applied to craft foam and used as a cover for the Names of God Scripture Memory & Reward Cards booklet. The booklet may then be used during the Names of God series to encourage the children to memorize their Scripture verses and to track their progress. The In-Class Memory & Reward Cards may be kept at church for the teachers to track and record the student's progress during class time.

This craft is available with book purchase.

Lesson Review (To be used when dividing the lesson into two sessions)

- 1) Why do you suppose it's important to learn about the names of God? (It helps us understand his nature and reputation—those qualities that describe him—who he is, what he's done for us and how much he loves us. By knowing who God is, it helps us obey the third commandment, “Do not misuse God's name.”)
- 2) Last week we learned that God told Moses to call him, “I Am Who I Am.” What does this mean? (God is all that his people need. He is dependable. His people can trust him to take care of them.)
- 3) Jesus often referred to himself as, “I Am.” What did that mean to the people who heard him speak? (By saying “I Am,” he was calling himself the same name that God called himself when he spoke to Moses from the burning bush.)
- 4) Last week we learned Jesus said, “I Am the Alpha & Omega.” What did he mean by this? (He wants his children to know that he is our A-Z. He is our Everything, the First and Last of all we need, the Beginning and the End. He is our Creator and our Judge, who if we trust in him to cleanse our sin, we will be forgiven and not found guilty of sinning against God when we die.)

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Review Memory Verse

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”
Revelation: 22:13 (Have children repeat the verse a few times.)

Check off Class Memory & Reward Cards for accomplishments.

Game: Alpha & Omega Relay

This game is available with book purchase.

Game: First - Last Ball Pass

This game is available with book purchase.

Purchase the book at <http://www.sundayschoolnetwork.com/curriculum-names-of-God.html>