

What Is In A Name?

PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

Theme: The names of Jesus

Scripture: Philippians 2:9

Memory Verse: God gave Jesus the name above all names. - Philippians 2:9

The Children's Sermon

Names are very important, aren't they? They tell us who someone is. It's how we know our friends from the playground and our family members at home. But have you ever thought about all the different Names of Jesus and what they mean for us?

Jesus has so many names because He is so important and does so many things for us. Let's talk about some of those Names of Jesus and what they mean.

"Friend" is one of the Names of Jesus. Just like your best friend at school, Jesus is always there for you. He listens when you talk to Him, and He helps you when you're having a tough day. He's the kind of friend who never leaves your side.

"Savior" is another name for Jesus. This means He saves us. From what? From making bad choices and from things that can hurt us. He keeps us safe and shows us the right way to go.

When we call Jesus "Lord," we are saying He is the boss. He's in charge of everything, and that's a good thing because He makes the best choices for us. He knows what's good for us even better than we do!

"King" is a name that reminds us Jesus is the ruler of everything. He's more powerful than superheroes, even more powerful than anyone we can imagine. And the best part? He uses His power to take care of us and love us.

"Father" is a special name for Jesus because it makes us think of Him as part of our family. He cares for us like a dad cares for his kids. He gives us what we need, like love, food, and a place to live.

"Teacher" is one of the Names of Jesus because He teaches us how to live. Just like your teacher at school shows you how to read and write, Jesus teaches us how to be kind, how to share, and how to be good friends.

"Master" means Jesus is our leader. We follow what He says because we know He wants the best for us. He teaches us how to follow the rules and how to be good people.

"Lamb of God" is a special name that shows how much Jesus loves us. He was willing to do anything to keep us safe, even if it meant getting hurt Himself. It shows us how to be brave and to love others.

"Holy One" means Jesus is perfect. He never makes mistakes, and He helps us to do better and be better. He shows us how to be kind and to help others.

"Child of God" reminds us that Jesus is God's Son. And guess what? Because we follow Jesus, we are children of God too! That means we are part of a big, loving family with God and Jesus.

"Prince of Peace" means Jesus brings peace. He helps us not to fight and to get along with others. He wants us to live in a world where everyone is happy and at peace.

"Lord of Lords" is a name that tells us Jesus is the most important leader of all. He is above all other bosses, kings, or anyone who tries to be in charge. He's the top leader, and He's a good and fair one.

So, you see, all these Names of Jesus are special. They help us understand who He is and how much He loves us. Each name tells us something important about Jesus and how we can be more like Him.

Let's try to remember these Names of Jesus and what they mean in our lives. When we think about Jesus as our Friend, we can be good friends to others. When we remember He's our Savior, we know we're safe with Him. Thinking of Jesus as our Teacher helps us learn how to live well.

And most importantly, knowing Jesus loves us and calls us His friends makes us feel special and loved. We can share that love with everyone around us, just like Jesus does.

Let's pray again: Dear Jesus, thank you for all the names that tell us about who You are. Help us to remember You are our Friend, Savior, Lord, King, Father, Teacher, Master, Lamb of God, Holy One, Child of God, Prince of Peace, and Lord of Lords. Help us to live in a way that shows we are trying to be like You. Amen.

Remember, kids, Jesus has many names because He is so important and does so much for us. Let's keep learning about these Names of Jesus and try to be more like Him every day.

Bible Memory Verse

God gave Jesus the name above all names. - Philippians 2:9

You Will Need:

- Construction paper
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers of stars or glitter

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into large star shapes, one for each child.
- Write the memory verse on each star beforehand or have it displayed where all the children can see.

Do This:

1. Give each child a star-shaped piece of construction paper and markers or crayons.
2. Ask the children to decorate their star with markers, crayons, and stickers as they like. Encourage them to be creative!
3. While they are decorating, talk to them about how Jesus is special because He has the name above all names, just like their star is special among their crafts. Explain that just like their star shines bright, Jesus' name is the brightest and most wonderful of all.
4. Once they are done decorating, help the children to write the memory verse on their star or if they are too young, write it for them. Encourage them to hang their star in their room to remember that Jesus' name is the most special.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Large paper crown
- Name tags with different names of Jesus written on them (e.g., "Savior," "King," "Friend")
- Tape
- Bible

Get Ready:

- Write different names of Jesus on the name tags and place tape on the back of each.
- Read Philippians 2:9 to familiarize yourself with the verse.
- Lay out the crown and name tags on a table or the floor where children can easily reach them.

Do this:

1. Gather the children and explain that Jesus has many special names that tell us who He is and how much He loves us.
2. Show them the crown and explain that because Jesus is so special, He has a name above all names, just like a king wears a crown to show he is important.
3. Invite each child to choose a name tag, read it aloud (helping as needed), and then stick it on the crown. As they do, briefly explain what each name means (e.g., "Jesus is called 'Savior' because He saves us from our sins").

Snack Activity: The Highest Name Fruit Cups

You'll Need:

- Assorted fruits (grapes, bananas, strawberries, blueberries)
- Clear plastic cups
- Alphabet cookie cutters

Get Ready: Wash all the fruits and slice bananas and strawberries into thin pieces.

Do this:

1. Use the alphabet cookie cutters to cut out the letters J, E, S, U, S from the slices of bananas and strawberries. Explain that just like these letters come together to form the name of Jesus, we come together in His name.
2. Allow the children to fill their clear plastic cups with grapes and blueberries as the base.
3. Then, have them place the JESUS letters on top. Share that Philippians 2:9 tells us God gave Jesus the name above all names, showing His great love and power.

Game Activity: Jumping for Jesus

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- Open space like a driveway or a sidewalk
- Small stones or bean bags

Get Ready: Use the sidewalk chalk to draw several large squares on the ground in a straight line. In each square, write a different name of Jesus found in the Bible (examples could include Savior, Lord, Prince of Peace, Light of the World, Good Shepherd).

Do this:

1. Have the children line up at the start of the 'Jumping for Jesus' path.
2. Explain that each square represents a name of Jesus, and they will hop from square to square to learn these names. They can throw a stone or bean bag into the square they aim to jump to, ensuring they say the name of Jesus written in that square before they jump.
3. After reaching the end of the path, encourage the children to think of ways they can follow Jesus in their daily lives, reflecting on the names they've just learned.

Craft Activity: The Highest Name Crown

You'll Need:

- Paper plates
- Stickers or self-adhesive jewels
- Markers or crayons

Get Ready: Cut the center out of the paper plates to make a ring that will sit on a child's head like a crown. Write 'Jesus' on each crown with a marker.

Do this:

1. Give each child a paper plate crown and explain that Jesus has the highest name of all, just like a king.
2. Let the children decorate their crowns with stickers or jewels to make them beautiful. As they do, talk to them about how Jesus is our King and loves us very much.
3. Help the children wear their crowns. Encourage them to march around the room as you play some music, reminding them that Jesus is the King of Kings.

Prayer Activity: Jesus, The Name Above All Names

You'll Need:

- A small pillow or soft object
- Picture of Jesus (or a cross)
- Simple prayer template printed on paper

Get Ready: Place the picture of Jesus or the cross in the center of your teaching area, and have the small pillow or soft object nearby.

Do this:

1. Gather the children around the picture of Jesus or the cross. Explain that Jesus has a very special name given by God because He loves us and did everything to be our friend and Savior.
2. Show them the small pillow or soft object and explain that it will be our 'prayer pillow'. Whoever is holding the pillow gets a turn to say a simple prayer. Use the prayer template: 'Dear Jesus, thank you for being our [let the child say a name of Jesus they know, like Friend, Savior, etc.]. Amen.'
3. Pass the 'prayer pillow' gently between the children, encouraging each one to say the simple prayer. Remind them that Jesus loves to hear from His children and that His name is the most special of all.