

What Is In A Name?

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: The names of Jesus

Scripture: Philippians 2:9

Memory Verse: Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 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

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, Philippians 2:9

You Will Need:

- Colored paper
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Stickers (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut the colored paper into strips long enough to make into crowns for each child.
- Write 'Jesus' on each strip in big letters using the markers or crayons.

Do This:

1. Give each child a strip of paper with 'Jesus' written on it and let them decorate their 'crown' with markers, crayons, and stickers. Explain that the name of Jesus is the highest name, just like their crowns are worn on the highest part of their bodies.
2. While they decorate, talk to them about the different names of Jesus they know and what each name means to them. Encourage them to share their thoughts.

3. Once everyone is done decorating, help them to form their strips into crowns and fit them to their heads. Gather the children in a circle and pray, thanking God for Jesus and His name that is above every name. Encourage the children to wear their crowns for the rest of the class as a reminder of the lesson.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large poster board
- Markers or colored pencils
- Sticky notes - crown shaped if possible
- Bible or a printout of Philippians 2:9

Get Ready:

- Write "Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name," on the poster board with markers or colored pencils. Leave space around the verse.
- Cut the sticky notes into crown shapes.

Do this:

1. Read Philippians 2:9 aloud to the children. Explain that this verse tells us that Jesus has the most special name of all because He is so important and loved by God.
2. Ask the children to think of different names of Jesus they know (like Savior, Messiah, Emmanuel, etc.). For each name they say, write it on a crown-shaped sticky note.
3. Have each child pick a crown and stick it around the verse on the poster board. As they place their crown, have them say, "Jesus, You are [the name on their crown]."

4. Once all the crowns are placed, step back and look at the poster board. Explain that just like our board is full of names for Jesus, our hearts can be full of love for Him because He is our King and Savior.
5. Close with a short prayer, thanking Jesus for being everything we need—our Savior, Friend, and King.

Snack Activity: Heavenly Name Crowns

You'll Need:

- Plain cookies (large enough to write on, like sugar cookies or round shortbreads)
- Icing in various colors
- Edible markers or food coloring pens
- Small candies or sprinkles
- Paper plates

Get Ready: Make sure the cookies are laid out on paper plates, one for each child. Prepare the icing and place it in small bowls or piping bags for easy handling. Have edible markers or food coloring pens ready.

Do this:

1. Talk about Philippians 2:9 and explain that because Jesus was so humble and obedient, God gave Him the name above all names. Discuss different names of Jesus like Savior, Lord, and King.
2. Have each child pick a name of Jesus that stands out to them. Using the edible markers or food coloring pens, help them write that name gently on their cookie.
3. Let them decorate their 'Heavenly Name Crown' cookie with icing and candies or sprinkles to make it royal and special, just like the names of Jesus are special. As they decorate, encourage them to think about what that name of Jesus means to them.

Game Activity: Jump to Jesus

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- A wide, open pavement area
- Small stones or beanbags

Get Ready: Using the sidewalk chalk, draw a large hopscotch grid on the pavement. Instead of numbers in each square, write different names of Jesus found in the Bible (e.g., Savior, Messiah, Light of the World, The Good Shepherd, King of Kings). Make sure to include 'Lord' as one of the names to tie in with Philippians 2:9.

Do this:

1. Have the children line up behind the start of the hopscotch grid. Explain that each name they see represents Jesus and how special He is. Mention Philippians 2:9, explaining that because Jesus was so humble and obedient, God gave Him the name that is above every name.
2. Each child takes a turn tossing their stone or beanbag onto the grid, aiming for any square. They then hop through the grid, skipping the square their stone landed on, to pick up the stone on the way back. Before they hop, they must say, 'Jesus is [name on the square they're about to hop into],' acknowledging each name of Jesus as they go.
3. If a player steps on a line, misses a square with their stone, or forgets to say 'Jesus is...' before hopping, they pass their turn to the next player. The game continues until everyone has had several turns. The aim is not to 'win' but to learn and proclaim the names of Jesus together.

Craft Activity: Crown of Names

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers or glitter (optional)

Get Ready: Cut a long strip from a piece of construction paper to make a crown that can fit around a child's head. Prepare smaller paper strips or shapes for the names of Jesus.

Do this:

1. Have the children color the long strip of paper with markers or crayons. This will be the base of their crown. Encourage them to decorate it with stickers or glitter to make it royal.
2. Read Philippians 2:9 together and explain that because Jesus is so special, God gave Him a name that is above every name. Discuss different names of Jesus like Savior, King, and Friend.
3. Ask the children to choose their favorite names of Jesus and write them on the smaller paper strips or shapes. Then, glue these onto the crown. As they work, talk about what each name means and how Jesus helps us in different ways.
4. Once the crowns are decorated, help the children to fit them around their heads and secure them with glue or tape. Wear the crowns proudly as a reminder of the special names of Jesus.

Prayer Activity: The Greatest Name Prayer Journey

You'll Need:

- A large poster board
- Markers or crayons
- Sticky notes

Get Ready: Write 'Jesus' in the center of the poster board in big, bold letters. Around 'Jesus', write different names/titles given to Jesus in the Bible, like 'Savior', 'King of Kings', 'Light of the World', etc. Make sure to include a variety of names to showcase His importance and roles.

Do this:

1. Start your lesson by reading Philippians 2:9 together: 'Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name.' Explain that Jesus has many names because He is so special and important.
2. Give each child a sticky note and ask them to think about what Jesus means to them. They can choose one of the names around 'Jesus' on the poster or come up with their own. Have them write it on the sticky note.
3. Invite the children to come up one by one to place their sticky note on the poster board around 'Jesus'. As they do, ask them to say a short prayer out loud or in their heart about what that name of Jesus means to them. This could be a thank you prayer, a prayer for help to understand Jesus better, or a prayer of praise for Jesus being their 'Light', 'Savior', etc.