

What Is In A Name?

UPPER 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:

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

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into strips long enough to make a crown.
- Write the memory verse on a separate piece of paper and place it where all the children can see it.

Do This:

1. Have each child decorate their strip of construction paper with markers, crayons, and stickers. Encourage them to be as creative as they want, making their strip look like a royal crown.

2. While they are decorating, discuss the meaning of the verse. Explain how Jesus is our King and why God gave Him the highest place. Encourage them to think about what it means to recognize Jesus as the King in their lives.

3. Once they are done decorating, help each child to measure and fit their paper strip around their head, and then secure it into a crown shape with tape. Have them wear their crowns and recite the memory verse together as a group, reinforcing the lesson that Jesus is the King of kings.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Bibles or printed copies of Philippians 2:9
- Large poster board
- Markers or colored pencils
- Sticky notes
- Name tags
- "Name of Jesus" reference sheet (create a list of names of Jesus found in the Bible)

Get Ready:

- Write Philippians 2:9 prominently on the poster board.
- Prepare the "Name of Jesus" reference sheet with names such as "Light of the World," "The Good Shepherd," "The Way, The Truth, and The Life," etc.
- Set up a table with markers, colored pencils, and sticky notes.

Do this:

1. ****Introduction to Philippians 2:9****: Start by reading Philippians 2:9 together. Discuss the significance of Jesus being given the name above every name and what this means for us as believers.

2. **Exploring the Names of Jesus**: Hand out the "Name of Jesus" reference sheets. Have each student choose a name of Jesus that stands out to them. On a sticky note, they'll write why they think this name is important and how it shows who Jesus is to us.
3. **Creative Poster Activity**: Each student will then come up to the poster board and stick their note next to the Philippians 2:9 verse. They'll draw or write the name of Jesus they chose around the verse, creating a colorful and meaningful collage of His names.
4. **Reflection and Sharing**: After everyone has added to the poster, allow students to share why they chose their specific name of Jesus and what it means to them personally.
5. **Wearing the Name**: Finally, give each student a name tag. Instead of writing their names, they'll write the name of Jesus they chose. They'll wear these tags for the remainder of the class as a reminder that we are called to bear His name and character in our lives.

Snack Activity: Heavenly Name Bites

You'll Need:

- Marshmallows
- Pretzel sticks
- Chocolate chips
- White icing
- Alphabet cookie cutters
- Parchment paper

Get Ready: Prepare a clean, flat surface with parchment paper where the children can work. Melt the chocolate chips in a microwave-safe bowl in 30-second intervals, stirring in between, until smooth.

Do this:

1. Use the alphabet cookie cutters to spell out names of Jesus (like 'Lord', 'Savior', 'Jesus', 'Christ') by pressing them into marshmallows. If necessary, kids can use a small knife (with supervision) to help cut out the letters.
2. Dip the bottom of the marshmallow letters into the melted chocolate and then place them on the parchment paper to set. This will be the 'glue' that helps them stick to the pretzel sticks.
3. Carefully insert pretzel sticks into the bottom of each marshmallow letter, creating a stand for the names. Allow the chocolate to harden.
4. Once the chocolate is set, use the white icing to draw crosses or hearts on each marshmallow letter as a reminder of Jesus' love and sacrifice. Encourage the kids to share their Heavenly Name Bites with others, explaining the significance of Philippians 2:9 and the importance of Jesus' name above all names.

Game Activity: The Exalted Name Relay

You'll Need:

- Chalk or tape for marking the ground
- Index cards with names/titles of Jesus written on them (e.g., Lord, Savior, King, Messiah, etc.)
- A basket or container

Get Ready: Use the chalk or tape to create a start line and a relay line about 20 feet apart. Write different names of Jesus on the index cards, one per card, and place them in the basket at the relay line. Divide the children into two teams, and have each team line up at the start line.

Do this:

1. The first player from each team runs to the basket at the relay line, picks an index card, and memorizes the name of Jesus on it.
2. The player then runs back to their team and tags the next player in line, sharing the name of Jesus they memorized.
3. The next player runs to the basket, picks a new card, and the relay continues until all names have been shared. The first team to finish, with all players correctly memorizing and sharing a name of Jesus, wins.

To connect this activity to Philippians 2:9, gather the children after the game and discuss how every name of Jesus they ran and shared is a name that is above every name, and how at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.

Craft Activity: Exalted Above All: The Names of Jesus

Crown Craft

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Glitter glue and markers
- Scissors and glue

Get Ready: Cut out crown shapes from the construction paper ahead of time for each child.

Do this:

1. Read Philippians 2:9 together and discuss the significance of Jesus being given the name above every name. Explain that we will make crowns to represent Jesus' kingship and the power of His names.
2. Have each child select a crown and write different names of Jesus (such as Savior, Messiah, Emmanuel, etc.) around the crown using markers. Encourage creativity and personalization.
3. Decorate the crowns with glitter glue to make them 'royal'. While the crowns dry, engage the children in a discussion about what each name of Jesus means to them and how knowing Jesus in these different aspects can impact their lives.
4. Once the crowns are dry, have a 'coronation' where each child can present their crown and share their favorite name of Jesus and why. Conclude with a prayer, acknowledging Jesus as the Lord of our lives and thanking Him for the power and beauty of His names.

Prayer Activity: Exalted Above All: The Names of Jesus

You'll Need:

- A Bible
- Blank index cards or pieces of paper
- Pens or markers

Get Ready: Write Philippians 2:9 on a large piece of paper or a whiteboard.

Do this:

1. Begin by reading Philippians 2:9 together: 'Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name.' Discuss what it means to have

a name above all names and how Jesus earned this honor through His humility and obedience.

2. Give each student a set of index cards or pieces of paper and a pen or marker. Ask them to write down as many names or titles of Jesus as they can think of (e.g., Savior, Messiah, King of Kings). Encourage creativity and reference to other Bible verses if they know any.

3. Once they have their list, ask each student to choose one name that stands out to them. Have them write a short prayer on the back of the card, addressing Jesus by that name and expressing what that name means to them personally.

4. Gather in a circle and give each student an opportunity to share their chosen name of Jesus and read their prayer aloud. Conclude the activity by praying together, thanking Jesus for being our Savior, King, and Friend, and asking Him to help us follow His example of humility and obedience.