

The Names of God

Theme Lesson

PREPARATION

Objective

Students will learn how God has revealed who he is through his names.

Outcomes

1. Students will be able to identify at least three names of God.
2. Students will participate in worship focusing on who God is as revealed through his names.

Directions

1. Using marker, print the following names of God on six (or more) name-tags: Lord, I AM, God Almighty, King of glory, Heavenly Father, and Jesus. Hide God's nametags around room.
2. Use a marker to draw a large window with four windowpanes on the poster board.
3. Make a color copy or color a black and white copy of each of the "Window Names of God" pictures.
4. Option 1: Prepare a table with blank nametags and markers. Have the students make a nametag to wear as they enter the room. Option 2: The teacher needs to make and wear a nametag to refer to in the lesson.



PREPARATION: 15 min.

TEACHING: 25 min.

Materials

- name tags
- large white poster board
- clear tape
- one copy of each of the "Window Names of God" pictures (pp. 2-5)
- scissors
- markers
- ruler or straightedge

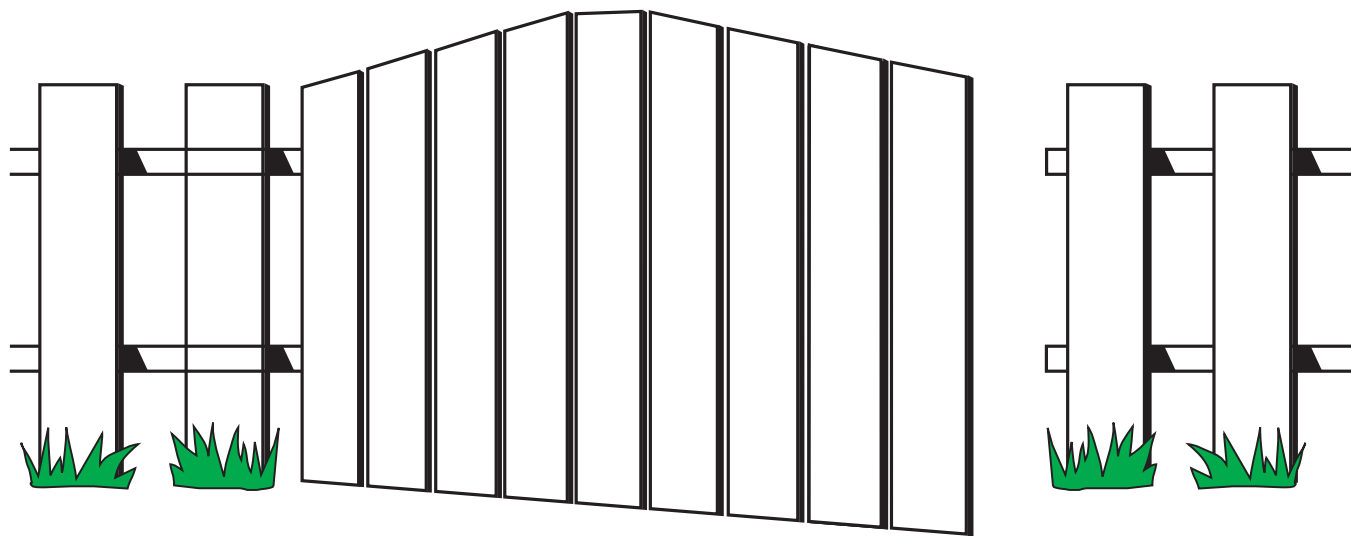
Window Names of God: Bread of Life



Window Names of God: Light of the World



Window Names of God: The Gate



Window Names of God: The Good Shepherd



TEACHING (CORE)

THEME LESSON: THE NAMES OF GOD

Directions

1. Review Lesson 1 by saying, *“Last time, we learned about the story of the Bible. We learned the Bible is a true story about God. This week we are going to learn how the Bible is also a love story. God showed his love for us by sending Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. God’s purpose is to make himself known to people so they will know how much he loves them. God also wants people to love him in return and worship him.”*
2. *“Before we get started though, I see you are all wearing nametags today. What do your nametags say? That’s right, they tell people your name! Nametags help people get to know you better.”* Option: teacher may just use his or her own nametag for lesson purposes.
3. *“Boys and girls, there are some nametags hidden around the room and I could use your help to find them. When I say ‘go,’ use your walking feet and search the room for the lost nametags. When you find one bring it back to me. Ready? Go.”* Allow time for children to find the missing nametags and then gather them back into a group.
4. *“Let’s read the nametags you found!”* Read each nametag. Then ask, *“Who do these nametags belong to? That is right! God! Did you know that God has more than one name? He does! Remember God wants people to know him so they will love him and worship him. All of God’s names tell us something about him. Something special about him we can love and worship!”*
5. *“What does the name ‘God Almighty’ tell us about God?”* Allow responses. *“Yes. God is stronger than anyone.”*
6. *“What does the name ‘Heavenly Father’ tell us about God?”* Allow responses. *“Yes. God cares for us as parents care for their children and because God is perfect, he does a perfect job of caring.”*
7. *“What about the name, ‘King of glory?’ The word glory means beautiful or worthy of honor. Is anyone or anything more worthy of our love and worship than God? No! God is King of all! No one deserves our love more than God.”*
8. *“These names for God are nametag names used in the Bible for God’s name. But wait, God has even more names called window names! They are different from nametag names.”*
9. *“Quick, use your walking feet and go to the window. Look outside and tell me what you see!”* Allow time for looking and describing view. Gather children back into a group. Then say, *“Just like you could look out the window and describe to me what you saw, God has special names that describe what he is like. These are called window names. Jesus, God’s son, came to show us what God is like. Listen now as I tell you about some of Jesus’ window names.”*
10. Use the “window” poster visual in this portion of the lesson. Have the four pictures and tape ready to place on poster as instructed.
11. *“Jesus said, ‘I am the Bread of Life’ (John 6:35). Can we live without eating*

Materials

- “Window Names of God” pictures (p. 2-5)
- poster board
- clear tape
- nametags with God’s names, hidden
- Bible

food? NO! Just like we cannot live on earth without eating, we cannot live in heaven without Jesus. ‘Bread of Life’ is one of God’s window names.” Tape the picture of bread in one window pane on the poster.

12. “Jesus said, ‘I am the Light of the World’ (John 8:12). Last time we learned how people live in darkness if they do not believe in Jesus. Jesus wants everyone in the world to know him so they will not live in spiritual darkness. ‘Light of the World’ is one of God’s window names.” Tape the candle picture in one pane on the window poster.
13. “Jesus said, ‘I am the Gate’ (John 10:9). Just like you enter into a yard or school through a gate, people can only enter heaven through their faith in Jesus. There is no other way into heaven. ‘The Gate’ is one of God’s window names.” Tape the gate picture in one pane on the window poster.
14. “Jesus said, ‘I am the Good Shepherd’ (John 10:11). What does this window name tell you about God? What does a shepherd do?” Allow response. “That is right! He cares for his sheep, protects them, and looks for them if they are lost. ‘Good Shepherd’ is one of God’s window names.” Tape the shepherd picture in the remaining window pane on the poster.
15. To review, say “Help me remember the window names for God.” Point to bread picture and say, “Jesus said, ‘I am the ____.’” Allow for responses. “Bread of Life, good!”
16. “Jesus said, ‘I am the ____.’” Point to the light picture and allow responses. “Yes, very good. Jesus said, ‘I am the Light of the world.’”
17. “Jesus said, ‘I am the ____.’” Point to picture of the gate and allow responses. “Yes! Gate.”
18. “Jesus said, ‘I am the ____.’” Point to the picture of shepherd and allow responses. “Good Shepherd. Wow, what good listeners!”
19. Say, “There is one more kind of name that God uses to teach people in the world about him. That is called the ‘fame name.’ God has ‘nametag’ names (show nametags), ‘window’ names (point to window visual), and now, ‘fame’ names!”
20. “To learn about fame names you will need a good imagination. First, pretend that you have an imagination hat. Pretend to hold your hat in front of you. Think about what it looks like. What color is it? How big is it? Does it sparkle? Glow? Allow brief sharing time. Now, pretend to put your hat on your head. Wow! You all look wonderful! Now, sit up straight and imagine with me.”
21. “I want you to pretend that a new family is moving into your neighborhood. In fact, they are moving into the house right next door to your house! Now, picture this in your head: this family has a mom, dad, a boy, a girl, and a really big dog. You are excited to meet your new neighbors, but the day before they are to move in a friend comes over to your house and says, “I KNOW THAT FAMILY! Their children are mean! The kids hit, kick, and even spit on other children. I wouldn’t want to live next door to that family!” Pause. “Oh no! How do you feel about your new neighbors now?” Allow responses.
22. “Now, let us imagine another story. Ready? I want you to pretend that another new family is moving into your neighborhood. This family has a mom, two boys, and a girl. They have three hamsters and a rabbit. You

are excited to meet your new neighbors, but guess what, the day before they move in, a friend comes over to your house and says, 'I KNOW THAT FAMILY!' Pause, open your eyes wide then smile as you continue the story. "They are so much fun. The kids share all their toys and their mom bakes the best cookies in the world!"

23. *"Boys and girls, it is now time to take off your imagination hats and put them at your feet." Give children time to remove their pretend hats. "I want you to tell me what you think. In the first story, what did you think about your new neighbors after your friend told you how badly the children behaved (hit, kick, spit)?" Allow response. "What about the second story? What did you think about those new neighbors after your friend spoke of them?" Allow response.*
24. *"Boys and girls, Proverbs 20:11 says, 'Even a child is known by his actions, by whether his conduct is pure and right.' The two families in our stories were known by how they behaved. One family had a good reputation and the other family had a bad reputation or 'fame' because of what they did."*
25. *"God is also known for the things he has done. That is why Bible stories are important. They tell people what God has done. As Christians tell other people what God has done, they share his 'fame name.' Telling friends about God is like the friend in our story telling you good things about your new neighbors. We can give people good thoughts about God when we talk about him."*
26. *"Now, let's go over the three types of God's names we learned about in this lesson. First we have God's 'nametag' names." Show God's nametags. "These are his names that we can read in the Bible." Show window visual. "Second, we have 'window' names. When the Bible says Jesus is the Good Shepherd, we get a picture of what God is like and how he cares for us. The last is God's 'fame' name. We share his fame name when we tell others what God has done."*

IN CLOSING ...

Have children stand for time of worship using songs that emphasize God's names.



SONG: MY NAME WILL BE GREAT

Before the Activity Directions

1. Preview “My Name Will Be Great” on the DVD. Practice the hand motions.

Directions

1. Hold up the “Key Word Purpose Statement” teacher aid. Say, *“God wants to make his name known to people all around the world.”*
2. *“Who can name a place in the world where people will worship God?”*
Allow responses. (Students may name cities, countries, or even land formations like “in the mountains.”)
3. *“Let’s listen to a song we started learning in Lesson 1. Listen to the words and watch the hand motions of the children on the DVD.”*
4. Play the “My Name Will Be Great” song through once.
5. Direct students to stand up. Play the song again, inviting students to sing along and try the hand motions.



PREPARATION: 3 min.

TEACHING: 5 min.

Materials

- “My Name Will Be Great” song (MS)
- TV/DVD
- “Key Word Purpose Statement” teacher aid (Introduction p. 22)



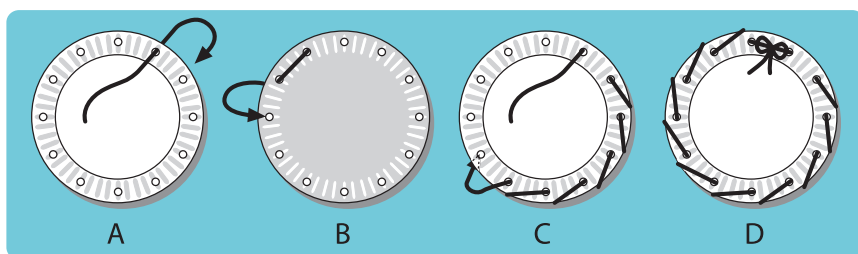
CRAFT: PROMISE PLATE

Before the Activity Directions

1. Punch twelve evenly-spaced holes around the edge of each plate.
2. Pre-cut yarn into 46-inch lengths.
3. Copy and cut out “Promise Cards.”

Directions

1. Give each child a paper plate and a piece of yarn. For the first stitch, thread the yarn through a hole from the front of the plate to the back. Leave about three inches at the end for tying a bow. (See A below.)
2. Bring the yarn up through the next hole. (See B below.)
3. For the remaining holes, use a whip stitch, looping the yarn around the edge of the plate. (See C below.) If this is too difficult, continue going in and out as before. (See A below.)
4. Go all the way around the plate, pulling the yarn up through the last hole.
5. Help students tie the two ends of the yarn in a bow. Trim off excess yarn. (See D below.)
6. Direct students to turn their plate so the bow is at the top.
7. Pass out the “Promise Cards” and the glue. Read the card with the students and direct them to glue it in the center of the plate.
8. Remind students that God’s promise to send a Savior is for all peoples. God’s plan to make his name known is a winning plan because God always does what he plans to do. Pass out scissors and old magazines. Have the students find and cut out pictures of people’s faces. Show them how to glue the faces onto their plate around the outside of the promise card.



PREPARATION: 25 min.

TEACHING: 25 min.

Materials

- one colored or patterned dinner-sized paper plate for each student
- hand-held hole punch
- yarn, any color
- scissors
- one “Promise Card” (p. 11) for every student (one sheet makes twelve cards)
- old magazines with pictures of people (if possible, from many cultures)
- glue or glue sticks

Promise Cards

God's winning plan, God sent a Savior, God keeps his promises.	God's winning plan, God sent a Savior, God keeps his promises.
God's winning plan, God sent a Savior, God keeps his promises.	God's winning plan, God sent a Savior, God keeps his promises.
God's winning plan, God sent a Savior, God keeps his promises.	God's winning plan, God sent a Savior, God keeps his promises.
God's winning plan, God sent a Savior, God keeps his promises.	God's winning plan, God sent a Savior, God keeps his promises.
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GAME: NAME GAME

Directions

1. Say, *"Today we learned that God's names tell about who he is and what he is like. Let's play a game using our first names. It will help you learn the names of other boys and girls in our group."*
2. Divide the students into groups of ten, each with an adult helper. Have each group sit in a circle.
3. Say, *"In this game, you will need to know the first letter of your name. When it is your turn, you will say your name and something that you could buy in a store that starts with the same sound as your first letter of your name. If my name is Nick, I could say, 'Nick went to the store to buy nails.'"*
4. Have the adult helpers choose a volunteer in their group to begin. Let this student say their first name and what they bought at the store. Have them use this format: ____ (first name) went to the store to buy ____ (item beginning like their name).
5. Allow time for all the students in each group to have a turn. Adult helpers may assist students who cannot think of an item that begins like their name.
6. Wait until all groups have completed this part of the game. Then say, *"Now let's change one part of the game. After you say your name, you must say the names of the children on either side of you and also remember what they bought at the store."*
7. Have adult helpers model this new step with the students in their own group.
8. Challenge: To make this game more challenging, play a round where students must say the first names and items of all the students who have turns before them.



PREPARATION: 5 min.

TEACHING: 20 min.

Materials

- adult helper for every ten students



SNACK: ALPHABET SNACK MIX

Makes 20 servings (one serving = 1 cup)

Directions

1. Cut apples into small bite-sized pieces and place in large bowl.
2. Add cereal and Teddy Grahams®. Stir.
3. Scoop a 1-cup serving onto each plate.
4. Pass out plates and napkins.
5. Say, “This snack has three things beginning with the letter “A,” “B,” or “C.” Let the students guess what they are. (apples, bears, cereal or Cheerios®)
6. Remind students that the names of God describe what he is like. See if they can think of a name of God that begins with the letter “A,” “B,” or “C.” When you pray for the snack, praise God using any of these attributes.



PREPARATION: 10 min.

TEACHING: 6 min.

Materials

- box of Cheerios® cereal
- 2 packages mini Teddy Grahams®
- 5 apples
- 1 cup measuring cup
- small paper plates
- large bowl
- napkins



PRAYER ACTIVITY: ABC PRAISE PRAYER

Before the Activity Directions

1. Turn the poster boards so that the short sides are at the top and bottom.
2. Use different colored markers to print an alphabet letter and matching attribute of God on each poster as follows: “A Almighty,” “B Blessing giver,” “C Creator,” “D Died For Sin,” “E Eternal,” and “F Father.” Make the alphabet letters large. Print the attributes in smaller letters at the bottom of the poster. (See illustration below.)

A Almighty	B Blessing Giver	C Creator
D Died For Sin	E Eternal	F Father

Directions

1. Mix up the posters and hand them out to six students. Have the students come up in front of the group and arrange themselves in alphabetical (or ABC) order.
2. Tell the students that the words at the bottom of the signs describe God. Explain that this prayer time will be all about praising God.
3. Read the “A” poster. Tell students that “almighty” means “powerful.” Ask students to share some things that God can do or make because he is almighty. Have the student with the “A” poster hold it up high and say “God is almighty.” Have the class respond, “Yea God!”
4. Read the “B” poster. Have students name blessings that God gives them every day. Have the student with the “B” poster hold it up high and say, “God gives us blessings.” Have the class respond, “Yea God!”
5. Read the “C” poster. Remind students that God created the universe and everything in it. Have students pick their favorite animal that God created. Have the student with the “C” poster hold it up high and say, “God is the creator.” Have the class respond, “Yea God!”
6. Read the “D” poster. Ask students why Jesus died on the cross? Ask them where Jesus is now? Have the student with the “D” poster hold it up high and say, “Jesus died for our sins.” Have the class respond, “Yea God!”
7. Read the “E” poster. Explain that “eternal” means “forever and ever.” Tell students that God was never born and will never die. God has always existed. Have the student with the “E” poster hold it up high and say, “God is eternal.” Have the class respond, “Yea God!”
8. Read the “F” poster. Discuss ways that God is like a father to us. Have the student with the “F” poster hold it up high and say, “God is our father.” Have the class respond, “Yea God!”



PREPARATION: 20 min.

TEACHING: 10 min.

Materials

- six pieces white poster board, 8 ½ x 11 inches
- six markers in different colors