

# Discussion Guide

What's in a Name?  
May 3, 2026

## **PART 1: RECAP. HAVE SOMEONE READ THIS OUT LOUD.**

This past week we focused on how your relationship with God is shaped one step at a time; we saw this through the stories of Abraham and Lot found throughout Genesis 13-22. This week we are in Genesis 17, focusing on how God is El Shaddai (God Almighty). Our passage for the week teaches us that if we let God's plans become our plans, then he will mold and shape us. God will work in our lives if we surrender to him.

- If you could change your name, what name would you choose?
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## **PART 2: HAVE SOMEONE READ GENESIS 17 OUT LOUD. ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS AS A GROUP.**

- After 13 years of God's silence, Abram thinks Ishmael is the promised heir. How does God show him otherwise?
  - If Abram's only responsibility under the earlier version of the covenant was to "believe" (15:6) what is required this time (17:1, 9-14)?
  - How does God's view of Abraham differ from Abraham's view of himself?
  - How does Abraham respond initially, and how does his response change over time? How does he know God will keep his word?
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**PART 3: REFLECT. ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS TOGETHER.**

- How does knowing God's covenantal faithfulness encourage you when circumstances seem impossible?
- How does this passage challenge you to live in obedience to God's commands and trust His promises?  
What are some areas in your life where you need to move from doubt to faith?
- God is El Shaddai (God Almighty), but there are other names for God as well. How would you describe who God is and what he's done to someone who doesn't have a relationship with him?

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**KEY VERSE:**

Genesis 17:1

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless..."

**NEXT STEPS:**

- I am thankful that God is El Shaddai (God Almighty)
- I will let God's plans become my plans.
- I understand that my problems are not bigger than my God.
- I will find my identity in Christ rather than \_\_\_\_\_.

