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STORIES OF
FAITHFULNESS

What's In A Name?

GENESIS 17

Romeo and Juliet

“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose
by any other word would smell as sweet.”

—Shakespeare

Meaning of Names

- **Isaac**—laughter
- **Jacob**—holder of the heel
- **Esau**—hairy
- **Simeon**—God has heard
- **Judah**—I will praise him
- **Israel**—he has overcome
- **Peter**—small rock (pebble)
- **Jesus**—Savior



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The Name of God Almighty

“The LORD ... said to him,
‘I am God Almighty’” (1)

What's in a name?

- **God Almighty** (*el shaddai*)
 - **El**—God
 - **Shaddai**—Strength, power, sufficiency, might
 - Used 48 times in the Old Testament
 - This is its first occurrence

I Will ...

- I will make you great
- I will increase your numbers
- I will make you fruitful
- I will make a nation of you
- I will establish a covenant
- I will give you an everlasting possession
- I will be your God
- I will bless Sarah
- I will bless Isaac
- I will fulfill my promise

An Important Lesson

- Even when things might seem impossible, we still serve a mighty God.



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The Name of Abraham

“Your name shall be Abraham” (5)

What's in a name?

- **Abram** = exalted father
- **Abraham** = exalted father of a multitude

God often takes his time

- **Noah:** God waited 120 years before he sent the flood.
- **Birth of Jesus:** God waited ~4,000 years before he sent the Messiah to be born in Bethlehem.
- **The return of Christ:** God has waited ~2,000 years, but we look forward to the second coming of Jesus.

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The Name of Sarah

“Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her”

(15-16)

What's in a name?

- **Sarai** = princess
- **Sarah** = princess of a multitude

(cf. Heb 11:11; 1 Pet 3:6)

Ephesians 5:25

“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.” (ESV)

A Reminder

Sarah is “princess” and from her lineage will come the “Prince of Peace.”



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The Name of Isaac

“You shall call his name Isaac” (19)

What's in a name?

- **Isaac** = laughter
 - Abraham laughed with joy (17:17)
 - Sarah laughed with shock (18:12)
 - Sarah laughed with joy (21:6-7)



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The Name of Jesus

“Kings shall come from you. And I will establish my covenant” (6-7)

What's in a name

- **Jesus = Savior**

- “You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” (Mt 1:21, ESV)

Philippians 2:5-9

“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has ...”

Philippians 2:9-11

“highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (ESV)

Hebrews 11:39-40

“And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us.” (ESV)



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**God would like nothing more than to
rename you, restore you, and use you for
his purpose**

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 God.
- I will find my identity in Christ rather than _____.