



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Who Are You?

[10 min]

Act Out Names

Say: **When you first meet someone, you usually say your name. Let's play a game where we'll say our names *and* act out who we are. First, we need to determine how many syllables are in our names.**

- Have kids each identify how many syllables are in their names. This may be difficult for some kids, so don't worry if kids get the number a little off.
- Give kids about one minute to think of an action for each syllable of their names that shows what they like to do. For example, a child named "David" could pretend to shoot a basketball and then pretend to read a book, and a child named "Jessica" could pretend to sing into a microphone, talk on the phone, and run in place.
- After kids have determined their actions, form groups of about eight kids. Have each group stand in a circle with kids facing one another.
- Choose one child in the circle to go first. That child will say his or her name and do the actions. Then everyone in the circle will repeat that child's name and actions together and then move on to the next person in the circle and repeat. Continue until all kids have said their names while doing their actions. (Kids don't need to remember and repeat all the names and actions that came before their turn.)
- Repeat the activity with the same motions, and go around the circle again. This time give kids 45 seconds and see if they can make it all the way around the circle before time runs out.
- Repeat, giving less time each round.

Talk About It

Ask: • **Now that you've played the game, what are some things you know about each other?**

Say: **In this game, names helped us identify each other, and actions showed who we are. God's names show us who he is *and* what he's like. Let's create actions for each syllable of some of God's names.** Have kids come up with actions for each syllable of "Mighty God" and "Holy."

Say: **We respect God's name when we talk. God's names show us who he is and what he's like.**



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

His Name Is...

[10 min]

Supplies

- “His Name Is...” teaching video

Discuss and Watch “His Name Is...”

Say: **We’ve learned a few different names for God today, and they’re all nicknames for the one true God.**

Ask: • **What are some nicknames you have?** Share your own example first.

Say: **A lot of people have nicknames. A nickname might tell something about who we are or be a different way to say our real name. Did you know that God not only has nicknames in English but that there are different ways to say his names in other languages? Let’s learn some. Get ready to practice speaking in other languages!**

Watch “His Name Is...”

Ask: • **What was your favorite name of God in another language?**

• **The video said we use God’s name to praise him, and we don’t use it disrespectfully. What’s a good way to use God’s name?**

Say: **It was neat to learn how people who speak other languages say God’s name! No matter what language you’re using, you can use God’s name to praise him and say nice things, because we respect God’s name when we talk.**



DEEPER BIBLE What's the Big Deal About OMG?

[15 min]

Supplies

- Bibles
- nametags
- pens

Easy Prep

- Make a sign that says "Jesus," and hang it on the wall.

Set It Up

Say: **We're learning that we respect God's name when we talk. One thing you might have heard about what this commandment means is that we don't say "Oh my God." But listen to this.**

Read Psalm 71:22.

Say: **So if the *Bible* says it, how can it be bad? What's the big deal about OMG? Let's dig in to that.**

Dig Deeper

Say: **First, let's look again at that verse. As I read it, think about what the verse is trying to say.**

Read Psalm 71:22.

Ask: • **What is this verse trying to say?**

Say: **This verse is written as a praise to God. It's a little like saying, "Oh my friend [name of child in room], you are so cool!" That's why it's okay to say "O my God." The heart behind what we're saying matters. If we're praising God, that's a great, respectful use of his name!**

More often, though, when we hear this phrase, it's as an exclamation or a curse that has nothing to do with God.

Ask: • **What are some types of situations where you'd typically hear that phrase?** Examples could include when something shocking, bad, disgusting, or exciting happens.

Say: **In those cases, people aren't using God's name as a praise; what they're saying has nothing to do with God. And in many cases, it's a reaction to something bad!**

Let's see how it feels to use *our* names that way.

For each of the types of situations kids named above, have kids use each other's names in tones that match the situation. For example, in a shocked tone, kids can say, "Oh my Elizabeth!" Or in a disgusted tone, kids can say, "Oh my Matthew!" Make sure everyone's name gets used at least once.

Ask: • **How did you feel when you heard your name used like that?**

Say: **If people used our names when they weren't even thinking about us, we wouldn't like that. It might even be hurtful and disrespectful. And God's name is even more important than our names, so it should be treated with *more respect than ours*. Have kids write their names on nametags and stick them on themselves.**

Say: **Maybe you don't even like your name that much. But God's name shows us who he is! Listen to this.**

Read Philippians 2:9-11.

Say: **The name of Jesus is above all other names. And at the name of Jesus, every knee is one day going to bow—even people who today don't love or follow God will bow! Let's put our names under Jesus to show that his name is above our names.**

Have kids remove their nametags and lay them on the floor under the "Jesus" sign.

Ask: • **What makes Jesus' name so special?**

Say: **Jesus talked about keeping God's name holy, too.**

Read Matthew 6:9.

Say: **And in the book of Psalms, we find out more about God's special name.**

Read Psalm 8:1.

Ask: • **This verse says God's name fills the earth. What does that mean to you?**

Say: **Our names help identify us. But if I know your name is Aidan, I still don't really know anything about you. God's name shows us he is Creator, holy, forever, and so much more! And God's name is all over the place; we see it when we see glimpses of who he is.**

Did you know that in the time the Bible was written, the Jewish people didn't even write out God's whole name? They left out the vowels. So if you look at the Old Testament in its original language, Hebrew, you would see God's name, Yahweh, without the vowels. That was a sign of respect and how they treated God's name differently from other names.

God's commandment didn't say we can't write his name. But it *does* tell us to be careful how we use God's name! We respect God's name when we talk, and that means we use it to praise him or say good things about him, not to curse.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

At the Name of Jesus

[5 min]

Supplies

- Bible

Bow

- Read Philippians 2:9-11.
- Have kids assume bowing postures as they praise Jesus for his name.

Wrap Up

Pray: **God, thank you that your name is special and shows us who you are. We respect your name! In Jesus' name, amen.**

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.



ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A POINT

Name Above All Names

[10 min]

Supplies

- “God's Commandments: Respect God's Name” Coloring Page
- pencils
- crayons

Older Kids: Do an Activity Page

Say: **We're learning that we respect God's name when we talk. That means we use God's name in positive ways. We don't use God's name as a swear word or to say negative things. We respect God's name by putting it where it belongs! Let's put God's names where they belong in this puzzle.**

Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Kids will fill the names into the puzzle.

Ask: • **What would have happened if you had put the words where they didn't belong?**

- **What can that teach us about putting God's name in the right place?**
- **What are some ways people put God's name where it doesn't belong?**

Say: **Sometimes people say, “Oh my God!” as a swear instead of to praise God. Or they use the name of Jesus as a swear. Sometimes people use God's name to say hateful things. But God is love! We respect God's name when we talk, and we use his name to honor and praise him. We only use God's name where it belongs!**

ANSWER KEY:



Younger Kids: Color a Coloring Page

Distribute the coloring pages and crayons. Say: **God gave Moses some commandments, or rules to follow. One of God's commandments is that we respect God's name when we talk. We use God's name in happy ways, praising him for being the Mighty God, the Lord of lords, and our Father.**

Allow time for kids to color.

When kids finish coloring, three-hole-punch their pages and put them into binders, if desired.