

# **This is My Name Forever – Teacher Notes**

**Day 1 – Behold What Manner of Love**

**Day 2 – What’s in a Name?**

**Day 3 – Case Study: Titles of God in the Life  
of Abraham**

**Day 4 – On Your Own: More Titles of God**

**Day 5 – This is My Name Forever**

**Day 6 – A People for His Name**

# **1. Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us...**

**Day one token: mini flashlights. (Read the following story that includes different symbols of how life without God is described. The intent is to show that the Bible is God's special book TO YOU, and is DRASTICALLY LIFE CHANGING.)**

*Look around! You are in a dark, dirty alley. It's a smelly place where passerbys throw the worst of their garbage to sit around and rot. It's an eerie place. No one wants to walk in a dark, dirty alley, except an occasional stranger who creeps through the shadows. But this dark, creepy place is your home.*

*You are an orphan, and you've been left here to die. No one wants you. You look down at your sick body. You can see the outline of your bones beneath your thin skin. You have sores that are infected and oozing with puss. When people pass by you, they look away and walk faster. It's better to hide in the shadows of the dark alley where no one will see you. You're lonely. You're hungry. You're sick. And you're dying.*

*Mustering all the energy you can, you crawl through the shadows to the pile of rotting garbage. A scabby stray cat hisses at you and darts away. You are used to the stench, and you hope that there will be something that is still edible – a chicken bone, or moldy bread. It doesn't matter that the food will make you sick, you are going to die soon anyway.*

*The sound of footsteps halts your search for food. Footsteps in the alley! You scramble to hide from the approaching stranger, hoping he hasn't seen you. But it's too late. You have been seen, and the footsteps are coming closer. You shrink into the shadow and bury your face into your hands to hide.*

*Trembling, you realize the stranger is crouching beside you now. You open your eyes, peeking through the hands that are covering your face - in time to see the stranger reach out to put a hand on your shoulder. You flinch! But he is gentle. His soft voice says, "Don't be afraid, little one."*

*You feel surprised and unsure of this stranger, but he continues, "I've been looking for you. I have food and water for you – you never need to go hungry again, little child. I have bandages and ointment for your wounds. I have beautiful clothes for you.*

*“But most importantly, I want you to know that I have been sent by One- a King!- who wants you to be His very own child. He knows you – every single little thing about you - and loves you more than you will ever know.*

*“If you want to join His family, and change your last name to His family Name, you will want to know what the King, your new Father, is like! He’s sent this book filled with stories and letters so that you can get to know Him and love Him, too.”*

*You look at the stranger’s compassionate eyes. Could it be true? Was there truly a chance to live? Was there truly someone who wants you to be their very own? You look again at your oozing wounds. How could anyone want you? Especially a King!*

*Suddenly, more than anything, you want to know about the One who wants you as His own! Who could know so much about you and love you so deeply? What is He like? What does He love? What does He hate? If He wants you to be His child, you want to please Him so badly. If you are going to be part of His family and have His family name, you want to act like Him so that everyone will know that you are His!*

*The stranger gently washes and binds your wounds, as you eat food that tastes like nothing you’ve had before. But all the while, the only thought on your mind is: what’s inside this book? What is my new Father like?*

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*Let’s look up a few verses to see how Without God, we are like that poor, sick orphan child searching for crumbs and hiding in the dark shadows waiting to die. But also notice the ways God, in His love, reaches out His hand to save us from that terrible place.*

**The following verses are in your child’s workbook. Read through them together, and have them complete the following highlighting exercises while you talk about them.**

1) In **Luke 1:79** Zacharias (the father of John the Baptist) talks about what Christ would do. In this verse, color in **red** the condition the people were in before Christ came, and then in **blue** color what Christ would do for them.

To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death,  
To guide our feet into the way of peace. - Luke 1:79

2) In **Amos 8:11** color in **red**, the condition people are in when they have not heard the words of the LORD.

“Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord God,  
“That I will send a famine on the land,

Not a famine of bread,  
Nor a thirst for water,  
But of hearing the words of the LORD. – Amos 8:11

3) In **John 6:35**, color in *blue* the food that God provides for us.

And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. – John 6:35

4) Read **Isaiah 61:1**, and color in *red* how life without God is described, and color in *blue* what Christ was sent to do.

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon Me,  
Because the LORD has anointed Me  
To preach good tidings to the poor;  
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to the captives,  
And the opening of the prison to *those who are* bound; - Isaiah 61:1

5) In **Psalms 103:2-5**, color in *blue* all the actions that God does and color in *red* all that He is saving us from.

<sup>2</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
And forget not all His benefits:  
<sup>3</sup>Who forgives all your iniquities,  
Who heals all your diseases,  
<sup>4</sup>Who redeems your life from destruction,  
Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,  
<sup>5</sup>Who satisfies your mouth with good *things*,  
So *that* your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

6) Even though we were in the shadow of death, and starving in famine, and poor and captive, and diseased, color in *blue* what God has offered to call us:

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us,  
that we should be called children of God! -1 John 3:1

7) God is creating a spiritual family! Color in *blue* who this whole family is named from.

I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, - Ephesians 3:14-15

*If you were an orphan and you found out that someone wants to adopt you, and you will be changing your last name – the next thing you would want to do is find out about this new last name that you will soon have! In the same way, if God wants to adopt you as His child, and wants you to be a part of His family that bears His name – then let's find out all we can about God's name that you will one day soon, God willing, have!*

**In the child's workbook there will be a box like the one below. Have them fill it out. Pass out the mini flashlights for the children to remember that gives a light to "those who sit in darkness."**

*Use this box to write about or draw a picture of life without God,  
and then what God has done for us!*

## 2. What's in a Name?

**Day 2 token: lanyards.** Do you want to learn more about the King who wants to adopt you as His own? The One who can save you from the wretchedness of starvation, disease and death?

This! (holding Bible) This is full of letters and stories that are from God, so that we can learn about our Rescuer.

It is full of stories that tell about Him – about what He loves, what He hates. They tell us about Who He is, and they tell us about His plan to build a family with children who love Him and are trying to be like Him in every way.

A very good place to start learning about how to be children to this King, is to learn what He tells us about His name and His “titles.” Today we are going to talk about what we mean by name and “titles”

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What about you? Your names tell a lot about you!!

We're going to play a name game! You get five cards.... Do you think you have that many names?

Card 1. For your first card you are going to write down – not your first name, but the meaning of your first name.

Now we're going to mix all of the names up, and draw them out of a hat and see if we can figure out to whom they belong! Often parents will pick a name that has a special meaning. **Draw out how they can live up to the meaning of their names. In the Bible, the meaning of names are often very interesting! (elaborate? If time?)**

Card 2. On your second card you are going to write down your last name – or your family name. **Mix up, pull names out, discuss.**

Your last name tells what family you are a part of... (list last names). Your family name tells me who you belong to, and who you are related to. Often families have certain values, so knowing a family name will often also tell someone what this person may value – just by knowing their last name! They didn't have last

names in Bible times the same way we do, but they still had “family” names. They would say “ben” (which means “the son of”) Joseph, or in Greek they would say Simon Bar Jonah (“bar” means “the son of”) so Simon the son of Jonah.

*\*\*So based on just your first and your last name, I already know a lot about you!\*\**

Card 3 On your third card, you are going to write down a title you have – like brother, sister, daughter, niece, grandson etc.

What about titles? (I’m a mother, you’re a daughter, you’re a brother, she’s an aunt). These sorts of titles tell who we are in relation to other people. So if I hear someone say to you “hey, sister!” then I know that you have a sibling!

*\*\*now we know even MORE about you!\*\**

Card 4 On your fourth card, write down a nickname that describes you. You can make one up.

Card 5 And your fifth card is another nickname that describes a CHARACTERISTIC you might have... “Usually a nickname describes you, or reminds you of something that happened to you, or says something about the kind of person you are. If you won a race, someone might give you the nickname “Champ” – short for “Champion.” If you are smart, you might be called “The Brain.” If you are always gentle and patient, people might call you “The Patient one.” **Have them create nicknames for themselves based on a characteristic/something that happened to them/something that they love or hate.**

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In the same way, God has a LOT of titles... over 200 hundred of them!! But only ONE Name. Just like each of your names and nicknames told us something about you, each of God’s names and titles tell us something very important about Him, so that we can know Him better.

**Pass out sheet of papers for craft – Yahweh... before starting craft have the kids take turns sharing some of the name/titles of God that they might be able to think of already. Point out name vs title vs characteristic.**

*\*\* these are only SOME of God's titles... tomorrow we're going to start taking a look at what some of these titles tell us about God!\*\**

If time, have them fill the box in their workbook:

## **2. What's in a Name?**

*Write your name in the center. Then write as many names and nicknames that you can think of to describe yourself.*

# **3. Case Study - Titles God used in the Life of Abraham**

*Most High God, Possessor of Heaven and Earth, Shield, Exceedingly Great Reward, The God Who Sees, Yahweh Yireh*

*What did we talk about yesterday? (we talked about how the meaning of your name tells me something about you... and your last name tells me something about you... your titles... your nicknames tell more about you... so if I had never met you before, if you wrote me a letter and told me about each of your names/titles/nicknames – I would actually know a LOT about you!!!)*

*We are going to start with some of the titles of God. So if I was going to be part of your family I might learn that you are \_\_\_\_\_(fill in from some of the kids "titles" from yesterday)\_\_\_\_ So if we want to learn about the Rescuer who can save us from the wretchedness of starvation, disease and death - we can learn a LOT about Him by taking a closer look at His titles in the stories and letters that He gave to us.*

*We haven't yet met our Father, but through this Book that He's given to us, we can learn about Him and grow to love Him so that we can be part of His family.*

*We all read the Bible, but sometimes it's easy to forget that this is the Book from the Great King, our Rescuer! It's easy to just read over it and not pay close attention to it. So today we're going to talk about ways to look closely and use God's Word to find out more about Him!*

*We're going use the life of Abraham as a case study today. Since there are over 200 titles used of God, we aren't going to even make a dent in them! But what we want to do is get out our magnifying glass and take a closer look at the life of Abraham to see what titles God uses of Himself and why.*

*Each of these titles tell us something VERY important about God. And God has shared each of the titles in a very specific story for a very specific reason. So when you see a title of God as you read God's word, STOP and notice – WHY THAT TITLE THEN???*

The children's workbooks contain the passages. Read through them together. Find the title(s) of God in the passage in the workbook. Have the children fill in notes in the boxes after the passage in their workbook. The "my response" space is to write down how knowing who God is makes you feel and want to act (awe, wonder, humility, sharing the good news with others etc etc).

## Day 4 – On Your Own: More Titles of God

### Day 4 token: a banner

Yesterday we went together through different names/and titles that God used of Himself in the life of Abraham. Each name/title was used at a VERY specific time for a VERY specific reason, and tells us more about what our Heavenly Father is like. Today you are going to try this on your own. **(Pass out Case Study Worksheets in envelopes. If you are working with a group, put kids on teams so that they can work together. The workbook will have corresponding passages and summary boxes like yesterday.**



## 5. This is My Name Forever

### Day 5 token: earth keychain

*This week we started by thinking about how we are like sick, poor, starving, dying orphans with good news from a Great King who wants to adopt us as His own children.*

*We spent some time learning about this Great King through some of the titles that He has given to us in the Book that is about Him.*

*We learned that He is the Most High – Higher than all kings of the earth, Higher than everyone and everything.*

*We learned that He is the Possessor and Redeemer of Heaven and Earth. All that is in Heaven and Earth belongs to Him – including us!*

*We learned that He has promised to be our Shield – if we trust in Him, He will protect us.*

*We learned that He is our Exceeding Great Reward – there is no reward that we can imagine that can be as Great as His.*

*We learned that He is the God who sees – He can see us wherever we are and whatever we are going through, and there is no where we can hide from God.*

*We learned that He is the Judge of all the Earth – and He will make right all the wrongs one day very soon.*

*We learned that He is our Provider – that He gives us what we need daily (our food and shelter and family), but more importantly, He has Provided His Son so that we might LIVE.*

*We learned that He is our Creator, and that He created us for His glory.*

*That He is the One who Heals us, who Sanctifies – Sets us apart as holy and special.*

*He is our Shepherd. He is our banner that can give us the victory over sin. And His armies protect us.*

*Although, we have learned a lot about Who this King is from the titles about Him, today we are going to talk about the most important one of all – His Name. Titles tell a lot about you – but your name is special.*

*God's Name is special too. Very special. It's more important to Him than any of His titles! He calls it His "Memorial" Name. Memorial means "Remember" – He wants us to Remember His Name through all generations FOREVER! It's THAT important!*

*What is this Name? It's the most used Name/title of God in the Bible... but its hidden - everytime you see LORD in your Bible, in the original language/Hebrew the word is Yahweh, God's Name!*

*Now finally, let's spend a few minutes talking about what Yahweh means. God puts a lot of importance on the meaning of names in the Bible. Sometimes people were named because of a feature (esau – hairy, adam –red, or an event: Jacob- heelcatcher, or a promise – Abram to Abraham because God*

was going to make him a father of many nations). **The meaning of God's name is a covenant. It's a promise – a promise about HIS WHOLE PLAN AND PURPOSE!!!**

Have kids raise hands (should know from song).

He Who Will... He Who Will ... what???. Let's remember the story where God reveals His Name to Moses. Remember it's at the burning bush, where the bush was on fire, but not burned up.

God told Moses that He heard the cries of His people because of the Egyptian taskmasters. God heard their sorrows. God's plan was to deliver them – to rescue them from Egypt (does this sound familiar? What is God rescuing us from?)

God wanted Moses to go to Pharaoh and lead God's people out of slavery. But Moses said, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring Israel out of Egypt?"

But God responded, "It's not YOU Moses, I WILL BE with you. (Do you hear God's promise? God's Name?)

Moses still wasn't sure. "When I come to the children of Israel and say that the God of their fathers has sent me, they'll say, "What is His Name?" What should I say to them."

God said, "I WILL BE WHO I WILL BE." Tell them that I have seen your affliction. Tell them that I promise this:

I WILL bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt

I WILL stretch out My hand to strike Egypt

I WILL give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians

Right before the plagues began, God continued this promise. This is in your workbook so color in everytime God's Name & promise comes up:

He said, "Say to the children of Israel.

I am Yahweh (I am He who Will Be).

I WILL bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians

I WILL rescue you from their bondage

I WILL redeem you

*I WILL take you as MY people*

*I WILL be your God.*

*I WILL bring you into the land which I promised*

*I WILL give it to you as a heritage*

*I AM HE WHO WILL BE.*

*How does this apply to us (worksheets)?*

## **I am He-Who-Will**

- *I will bring you out from the burdens of...SIN*
- *I will rescue you from the bondage of...SIN*
- *I will redeem you.*
- *I will take you as My...PEOPLE*
- *I will be your... GOD*
- *I will bring you into the land which I have promised....THE KINGDOM*
- *I will give it to you as an inheritance.*

*God's Name is **all about His purpose** – of redeeming and filling and the earth with people who show the characteristics of His Name!!! How exciting and wonderful is that?!*

# 6. A People for His Name

**Token for the day: name tag to add to lanyard “Yahweh”**

**Pre-print or copy out verses listed in game below onto pieces of paper. (see bottom of next page).**

Have these verses on the chalkboard:

- Exodus 34:5-7 And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear *the guilty*; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth *generation*.
- Acts 15:14: Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name.
- Ephesians 3:14-15: I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,
- Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

**As kids come in give their Name Tags back with Yhwh written on them.**

*This is your NAME that you take as your own name when you are adopted into God's family.*

*Like your last name, that tells me what family you are a part of, when you “bear God's name” it tells others that YOU are SET APART AS A SPECIAL part of GOD'S ROYAL FAMILY!*

*\*\*\* refer to the verses on the board: God is RIGHT NOW taking out a people FOR HIS NAME – FOR HIS FAMILY. Every time someone is baptized takes on God's Name and becomes part of His family.*

*But even now, as hopefully soon-to-be Sons and Daughters of God, you can “bear” God's name “for all to see.” We need to show characteristics that God associates with His Name – just as a Father expects His children to behave in a way that reflects well on your family.*

*I associate certain family characteristics from your family name eg everyone in this family is known for being a little bit jokey, everyone in another family is known for being a perfectionist... there are certain family characteristics that you'd expect with certain names. It's the same for God's Name! God has given us information not only from the MEANING of His Name but also telling us the CHARACTERISTICS associated with His name... This is SO important for us to know – because this can be OUR NAME too!!!*

*What characteristics do you think God associates with His Name? What character traits does God show? (Have the kids point them out from the chalkboard (from Ex 34) and write into their books).*

*Now if these are the characteristics God wants His Name to be known for, and we are bearing God's Name – these are characteristics God wants US to be known for too!*

*Let's think about what that means! How can you be merciful to someone? Gracious? Longsuffering? Full of Goodness? Full of truth/faithfulness? How about forgiving? How about not clearing the guilty? Pass out "Yahweh" name cards and add characteristics. This is part of God's memorial Name – Part of what He NEVER wants us to forget!*

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*Lastly, I have a game. This is a stack of cards with a verse on each one. The verse will tell you something that you either SHOULD or SHOULD not do if you bear God's name. Each of you look at your card, and go to this side of the room if it is how you SHOULD treat God's Name, and the other if your verse tells you how you SHOULDN'T treat God's Name.*

**Print out these verses, or have kids look them up.**

Verses on how not to treat God's name:

Enemies and foolish people take God's name in vain – they say it's nothing, or not important, or not powerful:

- 1) *Psalm 139:20 For they speak against You wickedly; Your enemies take Your name in vain.*
- 2) *Psalm 74:18 Remember this, that the enemy has reproached, O LORD, And that a foolish people has blasphemed Your name.*

We must not take God's Name in vain. It says God won't hold us guiltless if we take His Name in vain or dishonor His Name. How do you think we might take His Name in vain? (Not showing his characteristics...brings Him dishonor). Let's read the last two verses (#6-7)

- 3) *Exodus 20:7 "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.*
- 4) *Leviticus 19:12 And you shall not swear by My name falsely, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.*
- 5) *Deuteronomy 5:11 'You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him <sup>[a]</sup>guiltless who takes His name in vain.*

"Vain" means empty. If we are bearing God's Name, as one of His children we should be ACTING a certain way – obeying Him, not breaking His law, not stealing – living by His characteristics that He wants to be known for! If you as a \_\_\_last name\_\_\_ go out and steal and act terribly it brings down the name of your parents. In the same way, if we have God's family name and we act terribly the ones who don't believe in God think poorly of God – so that blasphemes His Name!!

- 6) *Romans 2:23-24 You are so proud of knowing the law, but you dishonor God by breaking it. No wonder the Scriptures say, 'The Gentiles blaspheme the name of God because of you.'*
- 7) *Proverbs 30:8-9 Remove falsehood and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches— Feed me with the food allotted to me; <sup>9</sup> Lest I be full and deny You, And say, "Who is the LORD?" Or lest I be poor and steal, And profane the name of my God.*

Verses on how to treat God's name:

There was someone who "bore" God's Name or manifested it perfectly! God wants everyone to who is called by His Name to show or manifest His characteristics – that is giving God glory!

- 8) *John 17:6 "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world.*
- 9) *Isaiah 43:7 Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created for My glory;*

We should treat God's Name as "Holy" set apart from every other Name, Higher than any other Name! We need to "fear" or "respect" God's Name.

*10) Matthew 6:9<sup>9</sup> In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.*

*11) Malachi 4:2 But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings;*

Because God's Name is a promise of His plan and purpose, of how He WILL redeem we can rejoice in His Name, and trust in His Name, we can be comforted when we remember His name in the night.

We LOVE His name. We exalt His Name.

*12) Psalm 89:15-16 Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound!  
They walk, O LORD, in the light of Your countenance.*

*<sup>16</sup> In Your name they rejoice all day long,  
And in Your righteousness they are exalted*

*13) Psalm 9:10 And those who know Your name will put their trust in You;  
For You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.*

*14) Psalm 119:55 I remember Your name in the night, O LORD, And I keep Your law*

*15) Psalm 5:11 But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You;  
Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them;  
Let those also who love Your name Be joyful in You.*

*16) Psalm 34:3 Oh, magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together.*

This one is very interesting. It says that God writes a book of remembrance for those who meditate – or think about His Name. **\*\*holiness to God on the forehead\*\*** If we remember His Name, He remembers us!! And what is the reward? We will be HIS, HIS own special people, His jewels.

*17) Malachi 3:16-17 Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another,  
And the LORD listened and heard them;  
So a book of remembrance was written before Him  
For those who fear the LORD  
And who meditate on His name. "They shall be Mine," says the LORD of hosts,  
"On the day that I make them My jewels.  
And I will spare them  
As a man spares his own son who serves him."*

Talk about Holiness to Yahweh on the forehead?

*Exodus 28:36-38 Holiness to the LORD on aaron's forehead*

*Rev 22:3-4*

*And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.*

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*So now when you go home, remember the Great King who wants you as His own – Who sees, provides, and heals.*

*As you read the book that He has given you to learn about Him, notice the titles that He gives Himself & look at the context so you can learn more about Him.*

*We haven't yet met our Father, but God willing, one day we will soon – and when His Son comes and sees us we hope that he will find children who have been trusting in His Name and living in a way that shows His Name to others, too... so that He will take us as His own jewels, and a part of His family.*