

Ministry of Jesus

Life changing lessons
from the ministry of Jesus

LEADERS' DISCUSSION GUIDE
NORTHWEST CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Names of Jesus

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Introduction

Where did your parents get your name from?

- Maybe from a family member, someone famous, something totally different.

Today names are not often as associated with meaning as they used to be. In scripture, names often had significance, pointing to events in their lives or the lives of their parents.

What were some names in the Bible that had significant meaning?

- Abraham named his son "**he laughs**" (**Isaac**) in Gen 17:19 because he laughed at the news he would have a son.
- Isaac named his son "**he grasps the heel**" (**Jacob**). At birth he grasped Esau, his twin's, heel. To grasp someone's heel was an idiom for being deceitful. Jacob tricked several people during his lifetime.
- Or how about Isaiah's son Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz (try saying that three times really fast!) which means "quick to the plunder, swift to the loot" as a prophesy of Assyria plundering Samaria (Isa 8:1).

Names often connected someone with their father. The Hebrew word "Bar" means son. Barabbas means "son of Abbas" which could also mean the "son of his father". Barnabus means "son of encouragement."

Jesus

Matthew 1:21

Like other names in the Bible, Jesus' name connects him with his Father. "Jesus" is Greek for Joshua which basically means "God saves". His name connects him with his Father's purposes in bringing salvation to the world. "Jesus" is the only personal name we have for the son of God. Although we often refer to him as Jesus Christ, Christ wasn't his last name. Like Immanuel, Lord, and Messiah, Christ is a title that describes who he is.

What has the name "Jesus" meant to you?

Immanuel

Matthew 1:22-23 & John 1:14

What does Matthew say "Immanuel" means?

- God with us

Why is God being with us "good news?"

The word “Immanuel” is not in John 1:14 the principle is there.

What does John say Jesus had to do to be with us?

- He had to “become flesh”

What does it mean to “become flesh”

- To go from heaven to earth and put on mortality for us.

These words of John literally say Jesus “pitched his tabernacle among us.” In Exodus 25:8 God says his purpose of the tabernacle is so he can “dwell among” his people.

How does Jesus’ “becoming flesh” make his dwelling among us more significant than the tabernacle in the Old Testament?

- Jesus became flesh, he became like us so that he could save us from what we struggle with— sin and death.

It was essential that Jesus fully participate in humanity, live a perfect life, and die as the perfect sacrifice to take away our sins. But this could only happen because Jesus was willing to be “Immanuel”, God with us.

What comfort do you find in the fact that God was willing to dwell among us in a personal way?

Lord was a term of respect for those in authority. Joseph was placed as “lord” over pharaoh’s house (Gen 45:8) which meant he had authority to make decisions there. When Paul is blinded by a bright light on the road to Damascus he replies to the voice from heaven by saying “Who are you, Lord?” (Acts 9:5). He didn’t know it was Jesus but knew the voice was someone with authority and he showed the proper respect. The same is true of the woman at the well in John 4:11. In the New Testament the word translated “Lord” is elsewhere translated “sir.” We see this same thing in Spanish where the word señor means “sir” or “Lord”

How do authority and respect go hand-in-hand?

- We have respect for those in authority.

How much authority does Jesus have (Matthew 28:18)?

How much of our lives should we surrender to the authority of the Lord?

- Everything. Every decision. Every action.

How does his resurrection show us the extent of his authority?

- He has authority over everything, even death.

John 20:28

How does Thomas show that the authority of Jesus as Lord is far more than

Messiah & Christ

“sir?”

- He calls him “God”

How can our lives show a respect for the authority of Jesus as our Lord?

- By listening to his voice
- By living obediently
- By having respect for who he is and what he has done

“Messiah” means “anointed.” Messiah translated into Greek is “Christos” where we get the name “Christ.” The Jews expected someone to come and be a deliverer of the people of God and usher in the kingdom of God. In John 1:41-42 we can see the excitement in Andrew’s reaction to meeting Jesus as he goes to get his brother Simon Peter.

NIV – “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ).”

NRSV – “We have found the Messiah (which is translated Anointed).”

Here we see that Messiah, Christ, and anointing are all connected. As we said before, Christ is a title. Saying he is Jesus the Christ, Jesus the Messiah, or Jesus the Anointed is all the same thing.

What three groups of people in the Old Testament were anointed for God’s purposes?

- Prophets (1 Kings 19:16), Priests (Lev 7:35-36) and Kings (1 Sam 16:10)

How does Jesus fit the mold of prophet, priest and king?

- Jesus was the perfect prophet, priest, and king.

He came as the Messiah to usher in the kingdom of God. In Mark 8:29 Jesus asks his disciples “Who do you say I am?” Peter’s response is that he indeed is the Messiah, the anointed one who was promised to come and deliver God’s people.

Application

We have studied several of the titles given to Jesus. Each of them points in some way to who Jesus is. His personal name Jesus points to his relationship with his Father in saving mankind. As Immanuel, he is present with us. As Lord, we accept and respect his authority. And as Messiah or Christ we acknowledge his place as God’s chosen redeemer.

How would living under the authority of Jesus’ Lordship make our lives look different? What would we do more of and what would we do less of?

As Immanuel showed us God’s presence on earth, how can we be a part of sharing God’s presence with others in our communities?

Put it into Practice

This week, read Mark 8:27-38 in light of Jesus as Lord. As you read, think about the authority of Jesus and his call to follow him no matter what the cost.