

of God as your heavenly Father.

Romans 6:4; 8:15

1 Corinthians 8:6

2 Corinthians 1:3

Galatians 1:3; 1:4; 4:2

Ephesians 3:14; 4:6; 6:23

Hebrews 1:5; 12:7

James 1:17

1 Peter 1:2; 1:17

Peter 1:17

1 John 1:3; 3:1

Jude 1

**PRAY** for the children in our Church, that their parents will bring them up with a right understanding of the greatness and character of God, and that Jean and our Children's workers will be able to support this teaching in 2:40 Tribe and elsewhere.

### Notes



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### Meeting With God Bible Reading Notes

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#### Week Four: The name of the Lord (A word study)

What's in a name? John Smith or Helena Hebblethwaite. Does it really matter? In the Bible the name given to a person usually has a double significance. It is a means of identification but often also describes the nature or character of the bearer. This series looks at some of the names for God and is a marvellous way of understanding and knowing him better.

#### Day 1. 'I am who I am'

##### **Exodus 3:1-15**

The Lord's revelation to Moses showed that God wants to communicate with and help his people. It came at a critical time in Israel's history when they were being badly treated by the Egyptians.

1. What did Moses discover about God in vv.1-6? How did he respond initially?
2. There was a reason for God's revelation at this moment. What was that? What do vv.7-12 teach about God's character and his involvement with his people?
3. Moses' reaction was a very natural one — why me? How should God's promise in v.12 have helped him?
4. But Moses was not satisfied and asked 'what is his name?', using a Hebrew word for 'what' that requested the meaning of the name in the answer. How would God's answer be an assurance to Moses? How did God also show in vv.15-16 that he was not altering what Moses already knew of him?

How is this revelation an assurance to you, especially in any current difficulties? Look up John 8:57-59. At the end of a long discussion with a group of Jews, Jesus claimed this title for himself. Why did the Jews respond so angrily?

**PRAY** for our Government and our nation that God's purposes will be fulfilled and that His standards will be upheld.

#### Day 2. The Holy One

##### **Isaiah 6:1-8**

Isaiah prophesied to a nation seeing God's judgment on them for sin and often used the title 'Holy One of Israel' in contrast to Israel's behaviour. Ours is the same holy God and we too can see the Lord through Isaiah's eyes.

*And it took the breath out of Isaiah. This was no place for him; he was out of his element. The holiness of God is no environment for man to be in. (R T France, The*

*Living God*)

1. What would Isaiah learn from his vision of the Lord and the seraphim (vv.1-4)?
2. How did his response in v.5 show the impact of his vision? Notice what had to be dealt with before he was commissioned (vv.6- 7).
3. In what terms did Isaiah describe the Israelites at the start of his prophecy (1:1-4)? What was their attitude to God?
4. But the Holy One does not act in malice and punitive glee. How does Isaiah 30:8-18 show this? What is God's longing? Note Isaiah's constant use of 'The Holy One'.

Isaiah 43:1-7 prophesied of God's care for Israel after the exile, which the nation suffered because of her sin. Notice the linking of 'Saviour' with the title 'Holy One of Israel'. The Lord longs to be gracious to you too. Make sure unconfessed sin is not in the way.

The LORD. Why the capitals? It is a translation of the Hebrew word YAHWEH, a name for God, and is really *the* name for God. In particular, Yahweh was the God of the patriarchs, as we read in Exodus 3:15. Yahweh is a proper noun, the name of a Person though that Person is divine. It brought God near to man, and he spoke to the patriarchs as one friend to another.

**PRAY** that you will know God as a Friend, as Jesus intended (John 15:15).

### **Day 3. The Living God**

#### **Jeremiah 10:1-16**

A relationship with the living God has powerful consequences in our lives and its absence leaves a hole nothing can fill. The Israelites had been influenced by the idol worship of surrounding nations and in these verses of vivid contrast Jeremiah pointed out the futility of idols.

1. Draw a vertical line down your notebook. On the left, list the reasons Jeremiah gave why idols were useless. By contrast how was God portrayed? Write the answers on the right. Reflect on the two columns for a few moments.
2. What was one of the results of idol worship, described in v.2? Looking at similarities between Jeremiah's time and today, why is astrology increasingly popular now? What part can you play in directing your friends to the living God instead of, for example, newspaper horoscopes? What other idols do we have today, which in effect are substitutes for Israel's wooden ones? Are any of these **your** idols?
3. Paul used 'the living God' as a title when describing the conversion of the Thessalonian Christians. Look up 1 Thessalonians 1:8-10. What is the similarity between Paul's usage and that of Jeremiah?

**PRAY:** Look over your answers today concerning the living God and idols and spend some time praying about the implications.

### **Day 4. Names commemorating events**

There are several places in the Old Testament where compound names for God are used. They are not names in the proper sense but rather they commemorate

events. They illustrate God's character and ways with us and for that reason are exciting to study. You may need to look in the footnotes to get the Hebrew version of the name used.

Genesis 22:13-18

Judges 6:19-24

Exodus 15:23-27

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Exodus 17:8-15

Ezekiel 48:15,35

Look at each of these passages in turn. For each, write the reference and the name used, as a heading, and then answer the following questions:

1. What is the context of the incident?
2. Why was the name appropriate?
3. Summarize what the incident teaches of God's character and the way he showed his nature to mankind before we had the example of Jesus.

You may not have time to do them all. If time is short, do a few completely and the rest at the weekend.

Which incident have you personally found most challenging and helpful? Meditate on the situations in which these commemorative names could help you. If you find it helpful, jot such situations down alongside the heading for that name. Try to memorize the translation of the names.

**PRAY** using one of the names of God that speaks most to you, and ask Him to make it real in your experience.

### **Day 5. Using Jesus' Name**

Why is it a privilege to use Jesus' name? This study looks at several examples and will enrich your understanding and worship of him.

John 14 -16 is Jesus' farewell discourse to his disciples. In it he promises them help for the future, showing the power available in his name.

1. Pick out the purpose and consequences of the disciples asking the Father in Jesus' name.
2. What does it mean to ask in Jesus' name? (If you are stuck, look up 'Name' in a Bible Dictionary.) What does this teach you about your praying?

Peter & John were put in jail after healing a lame man in the name of Jesus (Acts 3).

3. Note the occasions Luke uses 'name' (3:16, 4:7,10,12,17)
4. Why and how did Peter and John use the opportunity to proclaim the name of Jesus? What opportunities have you day by day to tell of Jesus' name?

**PRAY:** Turn the thoughts of this study into prayer, asking in Jesus' name that you may use his name properly, to his glory, day by day.

### **Weekend**

How do the writers of the NT letters think of God the Father? In what contexts do they use this title for God? The easiest way of answering questions like these is to use a concordance. Overleaf are listed some of the entries from the Cruden's Concordance under 'father'. Look up as many as you have time for, writing out what they teach you