



Names carry meaning. They can tell us things about a person and give us a better understanding of who they are.

God is no different! We can learn something about Him from each of the names He has throughout the Bible. And each time we use one of these names, we can remind ourselves of many of His qualities, like His power, wonder, strength, and provision.

These names tell us WHO our God is. And the better we know Him, the better we know who we are and how to live.



Week One APRIL 17

Discussion Goal:
To learn God is bigger than we think



THINK IT THROUGH (AND TALK IT OUT)

LEADER TIP: The goal of group discussion is to have youth talk about God, ask and wrestle with questions, and to grow and own their faith. If your group time is super short or busy, at least make sure to discuss the top questions below.

- God is so much bigger than we know! What does Isaiah 55:8-9 tell us about God's character? Why is this hard for us to sometimes understand?
- There was never a time when God did not exist. He is, was, and will always be. (Revelation 1:8). How can our understanding or image of God hold us back from understanding who He is? How can a wrong view of God give us a wrong view of ourselves?
- Read Exodus 6:2-3 in both the <u>King James Version</u> and <u>New International Version</u>. What difference do you notice between the two translations?
 - "Jehovah" is the proper name of the God of Israel. The meaning of "Jehovah" appears in Exodus 3:14 (KJV) to be "the unchanging, eternal, self-existent God," the "I am that I am" a covenant-keeping God.
 - What's the significance of proper names? Why does it matter that "Jehovah" is God's proper name?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- Besides God and Father, what other names of God do you know? (Have teens share the meaning of the name if they know it.)
- Who is God to you? How would you explain who God is to someone who has never heard of Him?
- Read the following passage: Genesis 16:9-14, Genesis 17:5, Genesis 32:27-30, Matthew 1:18-21, Philippians 2:9-11. What do you learn about names and their significance from each passage?
- How has God shown Himself to you or shown up for you? (e.g., provider, shepherd, protector, father, etc.) Discuss how each of those ways or attributes is a name of God. How does knowing who God is help teach us more about ourselves?

translations.

JEHOVAH NISSI – THE LORD IS MY BANNER

Week Tho APRIL 24

Piscussion Goal:
To learn we have God on our side



THINK IT THROUGH (AND TALK IT OUT)

LEADER TIP: The goal of group discussion is to have youth talk about God, ask and wrestle with questions, and to grow and own their faith. Don't feel like you need to use ALL the questions below – pick and choose the ones that work best for your group.

- In times of war in ancient middle eastern culture, holding up a banner represented where care was for the injured or a place to reassemble, and it displayed the symbol of the king who the army was fighting for. Read Exodus 17:8-16.
 - Instead of holding up a banner, what did Moses hold up? What would happen if the staff was lowered?
 - What did the staff represent for the Israelites, God's people? (God's power and presence with the Israelites.)
 - Why did Moses name the altar, "The LORD is my Banner"?
- Just as Moses said, "The LORD is my Banner" in Exodus 17:15, in what area of your life do you need to proclaim this truth? What battles or struggles are you facing?
- When you don't feel like God is on your side, what are some ways you can remind yourself He is fighting for you and is your banner?

- Read <u>1 Samuel 17:45-47</u>. While the battle is the Lord's, David still had a part to play. You do what you can do and let God do the rest. What do you need to do? What do you need to turn to God for?
- Close your eyes and imagine someone holding the banner of the Lord. What does this represent to you? (e.g., The Lord gives direction, we can go to the Lord when we are hurt or need care, we know whose we are we are part of God's family, etc.)
- Read other passages with the word banner: <u>Song of Songs 2:4</u>, <u>Isaiah 5:26</u>, <u>Isaiah 11:12</u>, and <u>Jeremiah 51:12</u>. What is the importance or significance of the banner in each of these passages?

JEHOVAH JIREH – THE LORD WILL PROVIDE

Week Three MAY 1

Piecussion Goal:
To learn God always gives what we need



THINK IT THROUGH (AND TALK IT OUT)

LEADER TIP: The goal of group discussion is to have youth talk about God, ask and wrestle with questions, and to grow and own their faith. Don't feel like you need to use ALL the questions below – pick and choose the ones that work best for your group.

- Read Genesis 22:1-14.
 - What would have happened if God had not provided a ram for Abraham instead of his son? (Look at Genesis 22:8 and Hebrews 11:19 to see how Abraham believed God would provide for him.)
 - In what verse do you see the name Jehovah Jireh? (verse 14)
 - How does this story foreshadow what Jesus did for us? (Just like God provided Abraham with a sacrifice, He sent Jesus to provide a way for us to have a relationship with God.)
- How can one of God's names be "provider" yet there still be things we want or need?
 - Read Philippians 4:19. How can you believe this verse in the midst of struggle or lack?
 What provision is Paul, the author of Philippians, talking about?
- How has Jehovah Jireh provided for you? Where do you need Jehovah Jireh in your life right now?

- Think about things you have that you would say you have a lot of. What is something you wish you had more of? No matter how much we have money, possessions, knowledge, skills, etc. what has God provided for us beyond all of those things? (e.g., salvation, forgiveness of our sins, a relationship with Him, life forever with Him in heaven, etc.)
 - Read Romans 8:17. What is a co-heir? What inheritance do we have when we become a son or daughter of Christ?
- Have you ever complained about something God provided for you or you prayed for?
 The next time you're tempted to complain, how can you look for God's goodness and provision in every moment? (Read Numbers 10-12 to see how the Israelites responded to God's provision.)
- In <u>Luke 5:27-31</u>, what does Jesus tell the Pharisees that He came to provide? How does He reveal himself as Jehovah Jireh?

JEHOVAH RAPHA -THE LORD WHO HEALS YOU

Week Four MAY 8

Piscussion Goal: To learn God can heal anything



THINK IT THROUGH (AND TALK IT OUT)

LEADER TIP: The goal of group discussion is to have youth talk about God, ask and wrestle with questions, and to grow and own their faith. Don't feel like you need to use ALL the questions below – pick and choose the ones that work best for your group.

- Read Exodus 15:22-27. Jehovah Rapha, translated to English from the original Hebrew, means "the Lord who heals." Where do you see Jehovah Rapha in this passage?
 - What did God promise the Israelites if they followed His instructions?
- Read <u>1 Peter 2:21-25</u>. Why do we need a healer?
 - How have you experienced Jehovah Rapha in your life? (While this world is broken and there is hurt and pain everywhere we look, for those who have accepted Christ, we have all experienced the healing power of Jehovah Rapha, who forgave us of our sins and made a way for us to have a relationship with God.)
- Sometimes healing will happen while we are on this earth, but other times it will happen when we are in heaven with Jesus. What do you do when the healing hasn't happened yet?

- What are different types of physical, mental, or emotional needs people need healing from?
- Have you ever seen Jehovah Rapha heal someone? Tell the group about it.
- Read Psalms 103:1-5. How did King David, the author of the psalms, remind himself that God was his Jehovah Rapha?
- What healing do you (or a friend or family member) need right now? Write out a prayer to Jehovah Rapha, the LORD who heals.

JEHOVAH SHALOM-THE LORD IS PEACE

Week Five MAY 22

Discussion Goal:
To learn we always have access to peace



THINK IT THROUGH (AND TALK IT OUT)

LEADER TIP: The goal of group discussion is to have youth talk about God, ask and wrestle with questions, and to grow and own their faith. Don't feel like you need to use ALL the questions below – pick and choose the ones that work best for your group.

- In <u>Judges 6</u>, an enemy was persecuting the Israelites God's people. Although the
 Israelites had turned away from God and were not following His instructions, God heard
 their cry and sent someone (a man named Gideon) to rescue them from their trouble. An
 angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, and Gideon prepared an offering for the Lord.
 Read <u>Judges 6:19-26</u>.
 - Jehovah Shalom means "The LORD is Peace." Where do you see this name of God in Judges 6?
 - Why did Gideon need peace?
- Biblical peace isn't the absence of conflict. It is shalom a completeness, wholeness, or harmony. It's restoring something that is broken. Where does your life need more of this peace?

- How would you define peace?
- Do you think peace is always possible? Why or why not?
- Read Galatians 5:22-25. What is fruit of the spirit? (Visible qualities that believers live out when they are walking with God's Spirit.)
 - One character trait of the Holy Spirit is peace. And when we are in Christ, we can access this spiritual peace, too. How can you access this peace?
 - What does living a life with shalom look like?

JEHOVAH SHAMMAH -THE LORD IS THERE

Week Gix MAY 29

Discussion Goal:
To learn we ALWAYS have God with us...



THINK IT THROUGH (AND TALK IT OUT)

LEADER TIP: The goal of group discussion is to have youth talk about God, ask and wrestle with questions, and to grow and own their faith. Don't feel like you need to use ALL the questions below – pick and choose the ones that work best for your group.

- In Ezekiel 48, we find the name of God "Jehovah Shammah" first used. Read <u>Ezekiel</u>
 48:30-35. What is the English meaning of Jehovah Shammah? (*Hint: It's the name of the city.*)
 - What would it look like to live your life in such a way where others would say, "the LORD is there"? (e.g., when someone looks at the way you play sports, treat your family, participate in school, spend your time, etc.)
 - What does this name the LORD is there mean to you personally?
 - How can God's name Jehovah Shammah remind you of who He is no matter what situations you face?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- Does it ever seem like God isn't there (or won't be there)? How does the name Jehovah Shammah remind you of His presence?
- Think about a situation where you need to remember God's presence. Read these verses: <u>Isaiah 41:10</u>, <u>Psalms 46:1-3</u>, and <u>Matthew 28:20</u>. Which verse encourages you the most? (*Encourage teens to memorize the verse this week and keep it in front of them.*)
- Prayer Walk: Have your group walk around your eGroup space or the interior or exterior
 of the building where you are meeting. (Be mindful not to disturb other groups!)
 Encourage them to talk to God and thank Him for being Jehovah Shammah in their
 past, present, and future.

God was there; He was with them. Others would describe the Isrealites differently because of God. But in Ezekiel 48, God leaves the people because of their disobedience. Ezekiel 48:30-35 is a prophecy that God would gather the Israelites together again and reestablish them in their own land and that He would be there.