

Lesson 1

The Wonderful Name of God

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Exodus 3:7-17

MEMORY VERSE: “I, even I, am the LORD, and there is no savior besides Me.”
Isaiah 43:11

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.
Psalm 90:2b

CATECHISM: I am the LORD thy God.

Reference: Part I: The Ten Commandments, The introduction, page 3. This shows the connection to God’s Name being “I AM.”

LESSON OBJECTIVES

The student will:

- know God’s name is “I AM.”
- know Jesus’ name is “I AM.”
- believe Jesus is God.

MATERIALS: A Catechism, Bibles, name tags, activity sheets

LESSON OVERVIEW: When God meets Moses at the burning bush, He introduces Himself as if Moses already knows Him. Moses realizes he is in God’s presence and is, understandably, afraid. God tells Moses he is to lead the children of Israel out of slavery. Moses said, “What if the people ask me your name? What do I tell them?” God told Moses His name is “I AM.” “I am” means “GOD is” and “I will be what I will be.” Written down, it would be “Yahweh,” the name of the covenant God. God said “This is my name forever.”

God always is. God redeems and saves. He does not change.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: What do you know about God? What does our lesson tell us about God? Is Jesus God? What did Jesus, who is also God do when He was here on earth. Why is what he did for us important?

ACTIVITY 1: Fill in the blank activity. The first section focuses on descriptors of who God is, the second section tell us who Jesus is and the last section is fill in from the Memory Verse.

ACTIVITY 2: A drawing activity about God’s saving work, four frames Jesus died, Jesus rose, Jesus saves, Jesus gives me eternal life

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Rejoice in the opportunity to serve the Lord by teaching the Ten Commandments.
Pray that each child may gain important insights about God through the lesson.
Remember specific prayers for each child throughout the week.

Prayer Preparation

- Talk to God in a child-like way about your personal needs.
- Thank the Lord for each of the children He has placed in your class this year, and ask Him to bless these children.
- Spend some time in heart-to-heart conversation with the Lord.

Bible Background

The revelation of God to Moses at the burning bush is one of the most striking events in the Bible, and it is fundamental to an understanding of God by Moses, Israel, or any other people. Here we meet the God who is “I AM.”

After the opening words (3:1-5), God introduces Himself as though He is already known. He says, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob” (3-6). Moses knows this God and he hides his face in fear.

After being given instructions to deliver the people from Egypt, Moses inquires more into the nature of God. His concern in verse 13 is typical of how we relate to people. Moses says, “If they ask me about Your name, what shall I say?” The people would know God as Moses did, as the “God of their fathers.” When Moses asks “What is His name? What shall I say to them?”, he is inquiring into the meaning of the name and character of God. He wants to know more of the nature of God: What is God like? And God simply replies (3:14), “I AM.” The words might sound simple, but that “name” is the most absolute, all-encompassing expression of existence, of “being” that is beyond our understanding. When speaking in Athens Paul introduces the people to their “unknown god” as the One “in Him we live and move and exist” (Acts 17:28).

The name “I AM” technically is not a name, or a noun. It is a verb form which simply says, “God is.” It would be written out as “Yahweh,” the name of the covenant God. When God explains to Moses who He is, He is merely saying, “I will be as I will be.” Or, “I exist, I am.” It is a statement of God’s almighty presence and power with His people in their deliverance, as well as in their life. He also says, “This is My name forever... to all generations” (3:15). What God is, He always will be, because He does not change.

In Hebrew, a person’s name is descriptive of his character. To know God’s name is to know who God is, to know His nature and character. The name is the person and that’s why God’s name is so important to Him and His people (Second Commandment).

God is “Yahweh,” the covenant God. In most Bible texts the name is written as “LORD,” with small capitals. But as God is, so shall His people be, and that is the basis for the moral law and the call to holiness of the covenant people. God introduces His Commandments with that statement, “I am the LORD thy God” (Exodus 20:2).

From this time on the name “Yahweh” would mean all that the name “Jesus” means for the New Testament people of God. God “saved” or delivered His people from slavery in Egypt. Jesus delivers or redeems us from sin and eternal death and judgment. The fulfillment of God’s act of redemption of His people through Moses now includes all people (Jn 3:16). Jesus, who is also eternal God, was “begotten [brought forth] of the Father” by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary. His name will be “IMMANUEL,” which means “GOD WITH US” (Mt 1:23).

Jesus Himself was clear on who He was when He said, “before Abraham was born, I AM.” (Jn 8:58), and “I and the Father are one” (Jn 10:30). For this the Jewish leaders tried to stone Him and later crucified Him because of His blasphemy of claiming to be God.

For the Hebrews to say “Yahweh” was to be reminded of the exodus out of Egypt, their redemption and salvation. For the Christian to say “Jesus” is to be reminded of the cross and deliverance from sin and death.

Learn the New Words

Promised Land: the land promised to Abraham by God; Canaan

reveal: to show

real: true, not make-believe or imaginary

eternal: never ending, goes on and on and never stops, forever

power: mighty strength, control

Savior: one who saves, rescues, or delivers

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet and welcome the children as they arrive.

Suggested prayer: Thank you, God, for your very special name that teaches us who you are. Thank you for your power and love. Help us to learn how you want us to live. Help us to love you. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

SHARING: Ask the students if they know if their name has a meaning.

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read the verse clearly,

“I, even I, am the LORD, and there is no savior besides Me” (Isaiah 43:11).

Be sure to read it together aloud. Remind the children you’ll repeat the verse again at the end.

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

Ask: Do you remember the name tags I gave you? Wouldn't we have been surprised if someone's name tag read, "I AM"? We might think, "What a different name? I wonder what it means. God's name means something very wonderful. Let's listen and read very carefully to find out what God's name means. Read from the Bible Exodus 3:13, 14 and John 8:58. God called Himself "I AM!" (Write "I AM" on the blackboard).

Read the Lesson

As you pass out the lesson sheets draw the students attention to the top of the lesson, we will be studying the Ten Commandments. Show the Students the Luther's Small Catechism, pointing out the section on the Ten Commandments. We will be learning about each Commandment this year but today our lesson will focus on who God is.

Teacher read the opening paragraph. **Ask:** **Why is it important to know someone's name?** (*so people can be friends*).

Move on to the next paragraph. Encourage students to read if they are comfortable reading out loud. Refer the students back to Exodus 3:1-7. Read these verses aloud. This sets the scene for God's conversation with Moses. Talk about this event; God appears as a fire but does not burn up the bush. God speaks from the fire. God instructs Moses to stand back, the ground was holy because God was there. God tells Moses He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Move on to the next paragraph reading it aloud. What can we learn about God? Possibly have the student underline the words that tell us about God; real, alive, eternal, power, Savior.

Move on to the next paragraph reading it aloud. **Ask: Who called Himself "I AM?"** (*Jesus*) **Ask: Does this mean Jesus is great and powerful too?** (*yes*) **How did Jesus show us his power?** *He died for our sins and rose again.* He saves us from our sins. He forgives

us of our sin so we can live forever with Him in heaven.

Because Jesus is God he could pay for our sins. When we confess our sins, He forgives the sins and gives us peace that we have eternal life, a life forever with Jesus

Repeat the Memory Verse

"I, even I, am the LORD, and there is no savior besides Me." Isaiah 43:11

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

What Does God's Name Teach About God?

Activity 1

Fill in the blank activity. The first section focuses on descriptors of who God is, the second section tell us who Jesus is and the last section is fill in from the Memory Verse.

WHAT DOES GOD'S NAME TEACH ABOUT GOD?

Activity 1

1. Find words in the lesson that describe God and Jesus the Son of God.
Hint: Counting the blanks and letters may help you.

I _ A _ M _
R _ E _ A _ L _
A _ L _ I _ V _ E _
B _ T _ E _ R _ N _ A _ L _
P _ O _ W _ E _ R _ over all things.
S _ A _ V _ I _ O _ R _
L _ O _ R _ D _

Can you explain what each word means?

2. Complete these sentences:

J _ E _ S _ U _ S _ IS G _ O _ D _.
J _ E _ S _ U _ S _ IS L _ O _ R _ D _.

3. Fill in the missing words from your memory verse:

"I, even I, am the _____ LORD _____, and there is no
_____ SAVIOR _____ besides _____ ME _____." Isaiah 43:11

Jesus Is Savior! Jesus Is Lord!

Activity 2

A drawing activity about God's saving work, four frames Jesus died, Jesus rose, Jesus saves, Jesus gives me eternal life. It may be harder for the students to decide what to draw, and may require some suggestions from the teacher or student discussion.

Activity 2

JESUS IS SAVIOR! JESUS IS LORD!

Draw a picture in each box, telling about Jesus the Savior.

Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the world.

Jesus rose again from the grave.

Jesus saves me from my sin.

Jesus gives me eternal life.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, I believe in You. Thank you, Lord, for being my Savior!

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CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

Additional Teaching Options

Hymns and Songs:

50 Ambassador Hymnal “O God Our Help In Ages Past” verse 1 and 4
“Jesus, Name Above All Names”

Additional activities for a multi-age class:

A matching activity to expand on the attributes of God, Creator: Genesis 1:1, Shepherd Psalm 23: 1, Holy, Loving, Merciful, Omnipresent, Omniscient, Faithful