

Story Time

Part 8 – What’s in a Name?

The significance of Names in the ancient world:

- 1) It may describe a **CHARACTERISTIC** or **QUALITY** of a person (Nabal = fool, 1 Samuel 25).
- 2) It may describe a **PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTE** (Esau = hairy).
- 3) It may describe the occasion or **CIRCUMSTANCES** around one’s life (Moses = out of the water).
- 4) The one who names is **SUPERIOR** to or in charge of the one named (Adam and the animals).
- 5) Knowing someone’s name is an indication of **FELLOWSHIP/INTIMACY**.

Mark 12:18-27, Exodus 3:13-15

God chooses to be identified in “every generation” by His relationships with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

I AM WHO I AM = I am the **LIVING** One. I am the **ALIVE** One. I am the One Who **IS**, Who **GIVES**, and Who **SUSTAINS** life.

The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob = I will forever be identified through my **INTERACTION/RELATIONSHIP** with these three men.

God and Abraham = YHWH **SEEKS** to be in relationship with Abraham. (Genesis 12:1-3; Ephesians 1:3-6)

God and Isaac = YHWH **SUPPLIES** what is necessary to be in relationship with Isaac. (Genesis 22:7-14; 2 Peter 1:3-4)

God and Jacob = YHWH **STRUGGLES** in relationship with Jacob. (Genesis 32:24-30; Philippians 2:12-13)

Who initiated/sought out to be relationship with mankind? (Eph 1:4, 2 Tim 1:9)

Who supplies the avenue for that relationship? (1 Pet 1:18-19)

Who promises to sustain this relationship until its ultimate fulfillment? (Phil 1:6, Rom 8:31-39)

What is the biblical definition of “ETERNAL LIFE?” (John 17:3)

YHWH, the LIVING ONE, seeks relationship, supplies the way to be in relationship, and struggles with us to maintain the relationship. This relationship is an intimate and everlasting relationship.

Life Group Discussion Questions – July 23, 2023

Mark 12:26-27 “But regarding the fact that the dead rise again, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the burning bush, how God spoke to him, saying, ‘I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB’? He is not the God of the dead, but of the living; you are greatly mistaken.”

Exodus 3:14-15 God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM”; and He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” God, furthermore, said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations.

DISCOVER

1. How did God identify himself in Exodus 3? What was meant by I AM? What was the significance?
2. If you name something or someone then how are you demonstrating authority or dominion? Why should we know the names of people? Why can't we name God? Who named every other god that people believe to have existed and why is that significant?
3. God said He was going to be known forever because of His relationship with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Why should we respect God's name and how He wants to be known? Why should we respect people's names? Why do little boys and girls come up with sarcastic names for other kids? What is behind the act of giving names to others when different than their given names?

EXPLORE

1. Read Genesis 12:1-3 and Ephesians 1:3-6. How did God seek Abraham? How does God seek us? How does God choose to be in relationship with mankind? How do you choose to be in relationship with God?
2. Read Genesis 22:7-14 and 2 Peter 1:3-4. How does God provide what we need spiritually and physically? How did God provide what was needed to be in relationship with Isaac? What is needed for a life of Godliness?
3. Read Genesis 32:24-30 and Philippians 2:12-13. How do we struggle in our relationship with God? Tell of some of your experiences in struggling with God. God struggles to keep us in relationship with Him. He fights for us. What work needs to be done in our relationship with God? He allows us the privilege of cooperating with His fight for us. What is the alternative?

EXPERIENCE

1. Read Ephesians 1:4 and 2 Timothy 1:9. Who initiated or sought out to be in relationship with mankind? How has God sought after you? Read 1 Peter 1:18-19. How does God supply the avenue for His relationship with us? Read Philippians 1:6 and Romans 8:31-39. How does God keep His promise to sustain our relationship with Him until its ultimate fulfillment?
2. Read John 17:3. How do you think non-believers might define eternal life? How should we explain eternal life to non-believers?
3. Why would God choose to be in a relationship with you and me for all eternity?

PRAY

Pray... God, we can scarcely fathom why you would want to have an eternal relationship with us. We know we are fearfully and wonderfully made yet we doubt our worthiness of being with you for all eternity. Praise you Father for sending your Son so that we can be reconciled with You. May it truly be well with our souls because our identify is with you alone. Amen.