



Living the Church Year Lesson Plan:

What's In a Name

Materials: Bible, 2 long sheets of parchment or butcher paper (or a dry erase board and marker), permanent marker, name dictionary or access to websites that give meanings of names.

Ages: 9-14, Teen (30 Minutes)

Theme: On the importance of names and Jesus' most holy and powerful name.

Intro: Today's lesson is about the Feast of the Naming of Jesus which the Armenian Church remembers every year on January 13th. Before we get to Jesus' naming, let's talk about the meaning and importance of our own names and names in Scripture.

Preparation:

Before class, make a list of all the names of the children in your classroom. Then, do some research to find out the meaning of each person's name. (Example: Michael in Hebrew means 'Who is Like God')

1st Name Matching Game

Use one sheet of the paper (or board) to create a matching game for the children to play by listing their names on the left side of the paper and the meanings of the names on the right side of the paper. If there are some names for which you were not able to find a meaning, still list the name and the correct meaning of the name will just be a question mark.

Let the child know that this does not mean that their name doesn't mean anything, but that you simply weren't able to find the meaning for it. Optionally all the kids, or the kids without written meanings for their names can tell how their parent chose their name.

Transition: In Scripture, names are **always** important. A name captures a person's important features and functions.

2nd Name Matching Game

At this point, play the 2nd matching game matching names from Scripture (on the left) with their meaning (on the right). Below is an example, you can use other Biblical names too. In the chart below, the correct name and meaning are next to each other, so when you use this, jumble up the answers.

Adam	‘from the earth’
Eve	‘source of life,’ or ‘the living/breathing one’
Moses	‘drawn from water’
David	‘the beloved one’
Abraham	‘father of multitudes’
Israel	‘struggles with God’
Elijah	‘Yahweh is my God’
Satan	‘the accuser’ or ‘adversary’

Transition: Names in Scripture always have something to do with a person’s mission in life. As Jesus had the greatest mission anyone has ever had in life, his name also reflects his mission.

How did Jesus get his name and what does it mean?

Before His birth, the Archangel Gabriel instructed both Mary and Joseph that the child was to be named Jesus, a name meaning “the Savior” or “He will save.” By accepting this divine command, Mary and Joseph demonstrated faithful obedience to God’s will. By Jesus taking this name, he revealed his mission and purpose; to save humanity from sin and bring reconciliation with God. We celebrate this day not just as an event in the life of baby Jesus, but to remember a profound theological truth: Jesus is the promised Savior, whose saving work was revealed from the very beginning till the end of His earthly life.

Transition: In fact, Jesus’ life and mission were so great that it took many names to contain everything about him.

Individually or in pairs, choose one of the passages that describe a name of God and report on the story back to the group:

The Many Names of Jesus

1. *Jesus*: Read Matthew 1:21
2. *Immanuel*: Read Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:23
3. *Messiah*: Read Mark 8:29
4. *Light of the World*: Read John 8:12
5. *Savior*: Read John 4:42
6. *The Word*: Read John 1:1 and Revelation 19:13
7. *Lamb of God*: Read John 1:29
8. *First Born of Every Creature*: Read Colossians 1:15
9. *Good Shepherd*: Read John 10:11
10. *Alpha and Omega*: Read Revelation 22:13
11. *Wonderful Counselor*: Read Isaiah 9:6
12. *The Christ*: Read Matthew 16:16
13. *Holy One*: Read Mark 1:24
14. *Lord*: Read Romans 10:9
15. *Friend*: Read Matthew 11:19, John 15:14-15
16. *Son of Man*: Read Daniel 7:13, Matthew 9:6, 12:40
17. *Ancient of Days*: Read Daniel 7:9
18. *Servant*: Read Matthew 12:18
19. *King*: Read Zechariah 9:9
20. *Prince of Peace*: Read Isaiah 9:6
21. *Bright and Morning Star*: Read Revelation 22:16
22. *Bread of Life*: Read John 6:35
23. *The Mighty God*: Read Isaiah 9:6
24. *Son of David*: Read Jeremiah 33:17 and Matthew 20:30