

## 25 NAMES OF JESUS

### DISCUSSION GUIDE 1

#### ABOUT THIS SERIES

His names made wise men travel a great distance. His names made shepherds run to a manger. His names made Mary sing with joy.

This December, prepare for Christmas by considering 25 of the names and titles of Jesus. Each name that prophesied his arrival will raise your understanding of the season, your anticipation for his birth, and your faith for the year ahead.

#### ITEMS NEEDED

- Bibles
- 25 Names of Jesus devotionals**

#### CHECKLIST BEFORE YOUR GROUP ARRIVES

- Pray for your group
- Read through the Discussion Guide
- Refreshments (optional)
- Clean meeting area
- Clean bathroom
- Crack front door

#### OPENING (10 MIN)

*After a general welcome, say:* Merry Christmas, everyone! Since we're in a series called the *25 Names of Jesus*, let's get our heads thinking in that direction—

#### WHAT ARE YOUR NICKNAMES AND WHAT'S THE BACKSTORY?

*After a brief discussion, say:* When we learn someone's names, we grow in understanding and appreciation for who they are. In the same way, when we take the time to explore the names and titles of Jesus it raises our understanding of the season, our anticipation for his birth, and our faith for the year ahead.

But before we get into all of that, let's pray.

#### OPENING PRAYER (1 MIN)

*Host, lead the group in prayer, asking God to bless your time together.*

#### THE FIRST FOUR NAMES (10-15 MIN)

*After a prayer, say:* For this series, some of the people and leaders of St. Mark helped write a devotional reflecting on the names of Jesus. If you have a copy, great. If not, you can go to our website [www.stmark.net](http://www.stmark.net) and then select "Hub" at the top and find a pdf version there.

The first four names of Jesus we're going to look at are pretty popular, and come from one prophecy of Jesus from the book of Isaiah.

#### CAN SOMEONE READ ISAIAH 9:6 ALOUD FOR US?

*After a discussion, say:* Let's use our devotionals!

**CAN SOMEONE READ JUST THE READING FOR THE NAME WONDER? CAN SOMEONE ELSE READ COUNSELOR? SOMEONE READ MIGHTY GOD? AND FINALLY, SOMEONE READ EVERLASTING FATHER?**

*After the reading, say:* It's interesting how each of these names points to a different attribute of God—his wisdom, his power, his love, and his kingdom.

**WHICH OF THESE FOUR NAMES DO YOU MOST-NEED IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW AND, IF YOU'RE COMFORTABLE SHARING, WHY?**

**TWO MORE NAMES (10-15 MIN)**

*After a discussion, say:* Let's look at two more names of Jesus that come from one verse.

**CAN SOMEONE READ REVELATION 22:12-13 ALOUD FOR US?**

*After the readings, say:* Once again, let's hear from some people at St. Mark.

**CAN SOMEONE READ THE DEVOTIONAL FOR ALPHA AND SOMEONE ELSE READ THE DEVOTIONAL FOR OMEGA FOR US?**

*After the reading, say:* God goes before all things and will still be there after all things.

**WHAT'S SOMETHING IN YOUR LIFE THAT FEELS UNCERTAIN RIGHT NOW?**

**HOW DOES (OUR HOW COULD) THE CERTAINTY OF GOD'S PRESENCE BEFORE AND AFTER THAT CONCERN BRING YOU COMFORT?**

**CLOSING PRAYER (5 – 7 MIN)**

*After a discussion, say:* To close out in prayer today, we're going to call on each of the names of God we discussed today. But first—

**ARE THERE ANY OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS TODAY?**

*After taking prayer requests, say:*

We come to you in prayer now, Wonderful Counselor...

*Pause for reflection.*

Mighty God...

*Pause for reflection.*

Everlasting Father...

*Pause for reflection.*

Prince of Peace...

*Pause for reflection.*

Alpha and Omega...

*Pause for reflection.*

We ask you to be all of these titles for us right now, as we pray...

*Continue with today's prayer requests.*