For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

Wonder

When our children were young, I experienced the wonder of Christmas through their eyes. They seemed to see and experience a new wonder every day of the season leading up to Christmas. They reminded me of the wonder I felt each Christmas growing up in Wisconsin: the street and store decorations; houses decorated inside and out with lights and ornaments; the festively decorated Christmas tree in the living room; the smell of baking Christmas cookies; and, the appearance of colorfully wrapped gifts under the tree.

I still experience the wonder of Christmas. I experience the wonder of all that God is and does for me. I still wonder why God chose to love me so much that he sent his Son to die for me. I still experience the wonder of God working through me each day. To me the season of Christmas is truly wonder filled!

Jack Langfeldt, Pastor Emeritus

Write a prayer about this name of Jesus in the space below.
God of Wonder, I come to you now and pray:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

Counselor

Isaiah 9:6-7 is a traditional reading that is likely familiar to any who have attended Christmas Eve services. Written hundreds of years before, it describes several of the names Christ would be given/pronounced not only at His birth, but during His life. Counselor is a term used to describe a therapist, lawyer, analyst, guide, expert, etc. A counselor gives us truth/advice and guides us through life. Usually, one meets or talks with a counselor regularly until the particular issue is resolved (or even longer if needed).

The idea that Jesus would be called Wonderful Counselor tells me that He will be perfect at helping me through all of my life. He will not only show me the truth, but He will BE the truth and guide me along the path that is right for me in this lifetime. Also, hidden in all of these "earthly" names/attributes in this reading is the fact that Jesus is God as well as human. This means that He will wonderfully counsel me for eternity too, teaching me more and more about God and how to worship Him.

*As a side, I marvel at the extent of detail present every time I come across one of the 300+ prophecies about Jesus in the bible. It seems there is something new each time I open the Word - ask God to show you something and He will!

John Bomba, Youth Ministry Leader

Write a prayer about this name of Jesus in the space below.
Counselor, I come to you now and pray:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Isaiah 9:6-7

Mighty God

The prophet Isaiah starts this passage with the birth of a child, a helpless infant, but quickly transitions to descriptions of power and greatness. How incompatible is our human view of a newborn with the name Mighty God? As we await the birth of Jesus, I can easily call to mind images of Jesus as a baby: seemingly powerless and dependent, lying in a manger, swaddled and snuggled to Mary and Joseph, or being doted on by shepherds or gift-giving wise men. But this infant is Mighty God! It is more difficult for me to remember that this child is our all-powerful God. In this season, we do not anticipate the everyday miracle of human birth. You and I are looking forward to our Mighty God coming down from heaven, being born fully human but also fully God and fully powerful, a miraculous contradiction!

Ben Bain, Elder

Write a prayer about this name of Jesus in the space below.
Mighty God, I come to you now and pray:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Isaiah 9:6-7

Everlasting Father

Last year, while being graded by my professor, Dr. Collender, I was asked to explain the uniqueness of the Trinity and how the Trinity is revealed in the Bible. I admit that I was really nervous, and my answers were probably a full plate of word salad. Dr. Collender asked if I could explain the Trinity? Just recite the Nicene Creed, right? No, I decided to be original. In the most polite way possible, I was told that my answer sounded much like what a Mormon would say. I was shocked! Thankfully, Dr. Collender is a man of mercy and gave me another chance the following week. The name Everlasting Father reminds me of the way in which ALL of the Trinity is involved in our salvation. When the Christ child is presented to the world, we are reminded that the Father is not through with us yet. For has not Christ said, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father...it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work." (John 14:9-10)

Tim Adair, Parents in Prayer Leader

Write a prayer about this name of Jesus in the space below.
Everlasting Father, I come to you now and pray:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Isaiah 9:6-7

Prince of Peace

The Son whose realm is peace. What a vast and strange thing to be a ruler over! My peace I give to you (John 14:27). I realize that peace can only be given by the one who owns it. Peace is a gift I have already been given. My inheritance, if you will, for my need and my nature. First, I need peace between God and myself, to settle the ancient dispute with my creator. The sin that separated me can only be reconciled by the one who reigns over peace. This gift, when I accept it, is a completed transaction. My peace I leave with you (John 14:27). Second, by nature I am a creature of unrest. To truly quiet my mind and my body to enjoy my creator and all His provision is a daily releasing of working in my own strength. I do not give as the world gives (John 14:27). Peace of this kind is the gift that keeps on giving.

Kim Davidson, Small Group Host

Write a prayer about this name of Jesus in the space below.
Prince of Peace, I come to you now and pray:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

John 1:1-3



Have you heard the phrase "From the Get-go!"? It denotes being there from the beginning. But have you really thought about how powerful being there from the beginning can be? When I first started my sobriety journey, I was thankful for my sponsor because they were with me from the beginning. And while I didn't know what my path to sobriety would look like, I was trusting my sponsor to teach and guide me based on the knowledge they forged in their beginning. Our bond became strong because we were together from the get-go, and I could count on them to have my best interest at heart. Being together from the beginning also applies to my relationship with Jesus. He's not only been with me from the very beginning of my life, but every beginning I have. He is the essence of beginnings, because He is the beginning – the Alpha. I can depend on Him in all things, because He's always with me from the get-go.

Lisa Piper-English, Small Group Host

Write a prayer about this name of Jesus in the space below.	
Alpha, I come to you now and pray:	

"Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

Revelation 22:12-13

Omega

Jesus is the Omega - the end. This name for Jesus makes me think of finishing a race. When you're running, it's easy to get distracted — by other runners, by fatigue, by everything happening around you. But keeping your eyes fixed on the finish line is what carries you through.

In the same way, Jesus is the end. Through His birth, death, and resurrection, He has already brought an end to sin. And not only is He the end — He is at the end, waiting for us with open arms. He is the goal, the prize, the one we are running toward.

Life is full of distractions. We're busy, weary, and often stumble in our race. We get frustrated with those running beside us, forgetting that they, too, are striving toward the same finish. But when we keep our focus on Jesus — not just during this season, but always — He gives us strength, grace, and purpose for every step of the journey.

Stacy Neal, College Care Coordinator

Write a prayer about this name of Jesus in the space below.
Omega, I come to you now and pray:

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Zechariah 9:9

King

King, a title that carries the weight of a nation. It's a title that cannot be earned (Contrary to what the sport's world says.). It is a title that you have to be born to inherit.

I am a history buff, and I was amazed at all the planning and preparation that took place for the coronation of King Charles. I was almost overwhelmed by all the pageantry, all the symbolism, and all the tradition that was involved.

Zechariah 9:9 is a verse that I most often associate with Palm Sunday and Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. It also reminds me of his birth in Bethlehem. He is a king to be celebrated throughout history and all eternity. Yet, he was also a baby born in a stable and cradled in a manger. As I look forward to celebrating the baby born in Bethlehem at Christmas, I am also looking to celebrate him as the "King of kings and Lord of lord's" whom I worship every day.

Jack Langfeldt, Pastor Emeritus

Write a prayer about this name of Jesus in the space below.	
Great King, I come to you now and pray:	

14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:14-16

Great High Priest

The letter to the "Hebrews" was written to a group of early Christ followers that were in fact Hebrew. These people, being Jewish like Peter, Paul, John, and other early followers, would have understood the many roles of the human High Priest, including performing rituals, being the spiritual leader of the people, and reconciling the people to God through sacrifice.

With his attributes that are fully human, Jesus lived a life like ours, but rather than being rooted in sin, He loved and served those around him. He behaved like the High Priest in older times, but Jesus did it perfectly. He taught and showed us that we all can serve/love like the High Priest should. And because He didn't sin Jesus could actually BE the sacrifice that took our sins away. With His attributes that are fully God, Jesus the High Priest reconciles us to the Father eternally. It is said of Jesus later in Hebrews, "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." (Hebrews 5:6) We can not only be grateful that we have a High Priest that knows us, but that we have a High Priest that truly saves us.

John Bomba, Youth Ministry Leader

Write a prayer about this name of Jesus in the space below.
Great High Priest, I come to you now and pray:

"They were all filled with awe and praised God. "A great prophet has appeared among us," they said. "God has come to help his people."."

Luke 7:16

Prophet

Throughout the Old Testament, God sent prophets to the people of Israel to speak God's truth. These prophets communicated God's instructions to the people, gave warnings and corrections, spoke messages of hope and deliverance, and even interceded on behalf of the Jewish people. These prophets even did great works in front of the people of Israel. We see in Luke that Jesus too fulfilled this role. The people were in awe of what Jesus did as he communicated the will of the Father, correcting and telling what was to come. He is our ultimate intercessor and helper.

While we often focus on Jesus' position as God the Son and as our sacrificial savior, this advent season, we can also remember that we anticipate the birth of our greatest teacher and guide, the Prophet Jesus!

Ben Bain, Elder

Write a prayer about this name of Jesus in the space below.	
Great Prophet, I come to you now and pray:	
	_

"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Daniel 7:13-14

Son of Man

In these verses in Daniel, we are introduced to the "Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven." Yet, before these verses, we are shown four terrible beasts coming up out of the sea of nations to rule for a time. It's the fourth beast that becomes the most troubling to Daniel. It's not just that he is gruesome to look at, but he has this hunger that devours all of the other beasts and wages war with God's people. If the vision had stopped there, everything would have been hopeless for all. Enter in the "Ancient of Days" and riding on the clouds to conquer this beast kingdom, the "Son of Man." If we are troubled by what is going on in the world, we need only to look to the child born in Bethlehem on that holy night. The issues that we face today that devour our peace are but temporary. His kingdom is "an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him."

Tim Adair, Parents in Prayer Leader

Write a prayer about this name of Jesus in the space below.
Son of Man, I come to you now and pray:

You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

Luke 1:31-33

Son of David

The awaited king to rule David's throne. The people wanted a king like David, "a man after God's own heart." David was no perfect man, but he was God's chosen king. Fast forward several generations and we see Jesus as a fulfillment of this "Son of David" promise. God's chosen King, his own Son. Yet, in God's ultimate provision, Jesus' earthly lineage was through his earthly father (in Matthew 1, Joseph, Jesus' father is also called the Son of David). Mary usually gets all the credit while Joseph sits dutifully in the background of the nativity story, but it was only through the line of David as the firstborn son that Jesus would rule as the true King. Son of David- fully God and fully man.

Kim Davidson, Small Group Host

Write a prayer about this name of Jesus in the space below.
Son of David, I come to you now and pray:

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

Luke 1:35

Son of God

Can you imagine how Mary felt when she was told of her unexpected surprise? How did she feel about becoming not just a mother, but the mom of the Highest? Was she nervous, anxious, afraid? Did she become giddy with anticipation as the baby grew in her womb? Did she revel in the wonder of it all? As we near our Christmas celebration, think about an unexpected surprise you've received. Have you had an out-of-the-blue visitor that made you anxious because your house was messy? Have you had a lost pet found, and your heart burst with joy? Whatever feelings we've experienced with our unexpected surprises, surely pale in comparison to what Mary felt. May we experience some of her giddy anticipation; the wonder of it all. Not just at Christmas time, but for all time.

Lisa Piper-English, Small Group Host

Write a prayer about this name of Jesus in the space below.
Son of God, I come to you now and pray:

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. 16 Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given.

John 1:14, 16

Word

Jesus is the Word. When I think of this name for Him, I'm reminded that God sent Jesus to earth as a living example of how we are called to live. The Word became flesh—God Himself took on humanity—so that there would be no confusion about His heart, His will, or His desire for His people.

Jesus lived among us to show us what love, grace, and obedience truly look like. Though He was perfect and we are not, His life gives us a model to follow. When I face confusion or hardship, I can look to the Word and ask how Jesus would respond.

Throughout His time on earth, Jesus endured trials, temptations, and testing—both from God and from others. Yet in every moment, He revealed God's truth through His actions. Drawing on these examples in Scripture allows us to apply the Word to our own lives today.

Stacy Neal, College Care Coordinator

Write a prayer about this name of Jesus in the space below.
Word of God, I come to you now and pray:

20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

Matthew 1:20-23

Immanuel

I grew up in a church and school both named Immanuel. It took me a few years to understand why we would sing "O come, O come, Emmanuel" during the days leading up to Christmas. Then in church one day Pastor was talking about Immanuel and said, as Matthew had written almost two thousand years before, that Immanuel means "God with us." It was as if a light, brighter than all of the lights on all of the Christmas trees in town, went on. God is with us! God is with me! I'm not alone. I'm not on my own. God is always there. As I get ready to celebrate his Christmas birth and his coming to be with us I am reminded in the carols and songs that I hear and sing and in the words I read and hear from the Bible that the god who is with us, Immanuel, is our God.

Jack Langfeldt, Pastor Emeritus

Write a prayer about this name of Jesus in the space below.
Immanuel, I come to you now and pray

32 Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." 35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

John 6:32-33, 35

Bread of Life

The 40 years in the wilderness was a time of growth for the Israelites, and it is a symbol of our lives as well. The Israelites left Egypt in such a hurry that they didn't take any food for their journey. By not preparing, they had to rely on God for everything... just like we should too. During this journey and through Moses, God provided manna, a bread-like substance that the Israelites collected each day. Along with manna, He provided water and these two became the "nourishment" that sustained them for their journey. They didn't recognize it, but God was teaching them to rely on Him.

We need God each and every day – we were actually created to need Him. Sin broke that need and drove us away from God. Jesus, being the Bread of Life, sustains us in a number of ways. God provides Jesus for our direction - He shows us the way through this wilderness we call life. Jesus is the nourishment and true path that we need along our journey. Also, being eternal, the nourishment that Jesus provides to His followers will never end – we will never be hungry or thirsty again!

John Bomba, Youth Ministry Leader

Write a prayer about this name of Jesus in the space below.
Bread of Life, I come to you now and pray:

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

John 10:11, 14-15

Good Shepherd

In John 10, Jesus refers to Himself as the Good Shepherd, and we humans are referred to as sheep regularly throughout the Bible. Having a small flock of sheep at home, I can readily relate to these metaphors. Sheep are, well, not particularly smart. The only things at which sheep are particularly skilled are eating and getting themselves into predicaments (I often wonder how quickly sheep would go extinct if humans were not looking after them). We too, are good at following our earthly desires and getting into trouble. Fortunately, we have Jesus as our Good Shepherd, and shepherds are a unique blend of caretaker, defender, and authority figure. Our flock depends on my wife and me for every necessity, just as we are fully dependent on our Good Shepherd. Jesus goes a step further, stating multiple times that he will lay down His life for the sheep. He is our Good Shepherd, and He comes at Christmas to lay down His life for us.

Ben Bain, Elder

Write a prayer about this name of Jesus in the space below.
Good Shepherd, I come to you now and pray

25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11:25-26

Resurrection

Have you ever had one of those moments where you heard or sang a song countless times, and in one moment, it touches you in a way that it never has before? At my father's funeral, one of the hymns we sang was the "Church's One Foundation". In it, we sang, "Yet she (the church) on earth hath union with God the Three in One, and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is one." In this season, we remember that Jesus came to be "the firstborn" of the new creation. We who believe are united to Him in death and in His resurrection. We can experience that hope today! One of those ways is when we participate together in the Lord's Supper. We share this with not only the saints today but those who have lived before us. Resurrection is a person, and it is His birth that we celebrate. "He is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive." (Luke 20:38)

Tim Adair, Parents in Prayer Leader

Write a prayer about this name of Jesus in the space below.
God of Resurrection, I come to you now and pray:

4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:4-5

Vine

In John 15, Jesus gives a condition and a promise- remain in me and I will remain in you, and you will bear much fruit. The word remain is a reference to a communion relationship earlier in John 6:56. The blood of Christ being represented by wine is no mistake. The vine is lifeblood to the branch. Abiding in Christ is lifeblood to the believer. The believer bears fruit- "fruit that will last". What does that have to do with his birth? It's a powerful reminder that our relationship to the Gardener, the Vinedresser, is only made possible through the life of the Son. Jesus is our living source connecting us to the Father. Jesus is the True Vine given to us as a gift- a gift that will last.

Kim Davidson, Small Group Host

Write a prayer about this name of Jesus in the space below.
Vine, I come to you now and pray:

6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

John 14:6-7

Way

The K.I.S.S. method is one of my favorites; Keep It Simple Sweetie! Let's be honest, as humans we can complicate virtually anything. We over think, overspend, over analyze, plan excessively, belabor details, and the list goes on. When you apply the K.I.S.S. method, you can change the complicated to sweet simplicity. Thankfully God knew our human nature would lean toward complicating everything, so He made the most important aspect of our lives, our very salvation, simple. Our God prepared the Way, and showed the Way, because He is the Way! I'm so glad the Way is not complicated!

Lisa Piper-English, Small Group Host

Write a prayer about this name of Jesus in the space below.
The Way, I come to you now and pray:

12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8:12



Jesus is the Light of the World. When I reflect on this name for Jesus, I'm reminded that He is the very definition of peace and love. Jesus brings light into a dark and broken world. And His light cannot be overcome.

As followers of Christ, we are called to reflect that same light. Sometimes, the thought of making an impact in such a vast and complicated world feels overwhelming. But then I remember that even a single candle can push back the darkness. And when many candles burn together, their combined glow can illuminate an entire space—a room, a community, even the world.

We may not be able to change the world alone, but together, through every small act of kindness, every word of love, and every moment of grace, we share His light. And when all those lights come together, the world shines a little brighter with the love of Christ.

Stacy Neal, College Care Coordinator

Write a prayer about this name of Jesus in the space below.
Light of the World, I come to you now and pray

33 And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' 34 I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."

John 1:33-34

Chosen One

A baby. A baby born to parents who are virtually unknown and unseen. A baby wrapped in strips of cloth and placed in a feeding trough for animals. A baby who is the Chosen One.

He is the one we celebrate at Christmas. The Chosen One who people didn't see or know. The Chosen One who people saw only as the carpenter's son. The Chosen One who came from a small town that people ridiculed.

The Chosen One was sent that first Christmas for us. The Chosen One who is the perfect Christmas gift for each of us. The Chosen One who did for us what we can not do for ourselves. The Chosen One who makes me a chosen one, a child of God.

Jack Langfeldt, Pastor Emeritus

Write a prayer about this name of Jesus in the space below.
Chosen one, I come to you now and pray

5 Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

Revelation 5:5

Lion of Judah

When John wrote revelation, there would have been common understanding of how a scroll and seal(s) were used. The rolling of a scroll and the breaking of a wax seal(s) protected the message and ensured that only the proper person could open it. A messenger would deliver the scroll and would search for the person to whom the message was written. Without the proper person (like a king or emperor) the seals could not be broken, the scroll could not be opened, and the message was not received.

This chapter of Revelation describes the purpose of Jesus that the whole of Scriptures testify: namely, that Jesus was present before the beginning of time, that His purpose was to reconcile us with God, and that He will be present with the true church forever. Jesus' human ancestry presented Him as David's offspring, from the tribe of Judah, fulfilling the earthly lineage of the Messiah. His eternal heavenly lineage means that He will rule forever. Jesus is the only one worthy to open the seals and scroll to complete the judgements that will usher in the new heaven and new earth and eternity with God.

John Bomba, Youth Ministry Leader

Write a prayer about this name of Jesus in the space below.
Lion of Judah, I come to you now and pray:

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

John 1:29

Lamb

John the Baptist announces Jesus as the "Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." Under the Law of Moses, the people of Israel were instructed to atone for their sins with various burnt offerings, including lambs. The sacrificial animal was supposed to be without defect, and the guilty person was instructed to lay their hand on the animal's head when they killed it. Under the Law, the person's sin was transferred to the sacrificial animal and they were forgiven for their sin. While we look to the birth of Jesus, we know that the Messiah is not just an earthly king. This soon-to-be-born child is also the Lamb of God, our sacrificial Savior providing atonement under the Law. He too is without defect and takes on the sin of the world as well as the death we deserve. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord". (Romans 6:23)

Ben Bain, Elder

Write a prayer about this name of Jesus in the space below.
Lamb of God, I come to you now and pray:

21 On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

Luke 2:21

Jesus

In my early twenties, largely due to my own poor decisions, I found myself in a period of deep despair and sorrow. One day, an elderly retired missionary named Gloria pointed me back to my Savior. To my joy, I found that Jesus wasn't one who had to be found like a lost key. He had been with me all along. When reading this passage, I think of how, for thousands of years, parents would make the pilgrimage to dedicate their children and receive the promises given to them in circumcision. Yet there was one promise that had yet to be realized. The promise that one day "the seed" promised to Abraham would come. Bringing salvation to not only Israel, but to all of the nations without distinction. Jesus "Yahweh saves", declared by the angels and the Father Himself, has come and is with us to save. I am reminded in this season that salvation is a person, and He is not far away but is with us and loves us!

Tim Adair, Parents in Prayer Leader

Write a prayer about this name of Jesus in the space below.
Lord Jesus, I come to you now and pray: