

25 NAMES OF JESUS

DISCUSSION GUIDE 2

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: Okay, let's start today with a quiz that might be harder than you think. I'll give you the real name of an actor in a Christmas movie, you tell me the name of their character.

MACAULAY CULKIN IN HOME ALONE

(Kevin McCallister)

WILL FERREL

(Buddy)

JAMES STEWART IN WONDERFUL LIFE

(George Bailey)

BING CROSBY IN WHITE CHRISTMAS

(Bob Wallace)

BRUCE WILLIS IN DIE HARD

(John McClane)

BILL MURRAY IN SCROOGED

(Frank Cross)

After a brief discussion, say: Some names are obvious. Some names are more obscure. Today as we continue our 25 Names of Jesus series, we're going to reflect on some familiar and some not-so-familiar names of Jesus to deepen your appreciation for his birth.

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.

THREE 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 and then select "Hub" at the top and find a pdf version there.

LET'S READ DEC. 7 (KING) TO DEC. 9 (PROPHET) ALOUD TOGETHER.

After the reading, say: These three names—prophet, priest, and king—are often referred to together because they summarize what Jesus would do in his ministry—a prophet to reveal the things of God, a priest to intercede for people's sins to God, and a king to protect and rule his people.

WHICH OF THESE TITLES DO YOU TEND TO FOCUS ON, WHICH ONE DO YOU TEND TO FORGET?**FOUR MORE NAMES (10-15 MIN)**

After a discussion, say: Let's look at four more names of Jesus.

LET'S READ DEC. 10 (SON OF MAN) TO DEC. 13 (WORD).

After the readings, say: Now we're really into the obscure names of Jesus! But, as you heard, obscurity doesn't make them any less important. The "sonly" titles all refer to his relationships: he's fully man, he's fully God, he's the rightful heir to David's throne. And then he's the verbalized Word of God made flesh.

WHICH OF THESE TITLES IS THE HARDEST FOR YOU TO WRAP YOUR HEAD AROUND AND WHY?

After a discussion, say: As we draw closer to Christmas, it's a powerful exercise to think that each of these names lies there in the manger.

WHICH OF THE TITLES WE DISCUSSED TODAY GIVES YOU THE GREATEST SENSE OF AWE THIS CHRISTMAS? (PROPHET, GREAT HIGH PRIEST, KING OF KINGS, SON OF MAN, SON OF GOD, SON OF DAVID, WORD)**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, Great Prophet...

Pause for reflection.

Great High Priest...

Pause for reflection.

Great King...

Pause for reflection.

Son of Man...

Pause for reflection.

Son of God...

Pause for reflection.

Son of David...

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

Continue with today's prayer requests.