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NAMES *of* GOD

A DEVOTIONAL STUDY



NAMES of GOD



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A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding an open book. The person is wearing a blue and white plaid shirt. The book is open, showing its pages. The background is slightly blurred, focusing on the book and hands.

What if God had **never** told us anything about Himself?

We'd be left to guess about who He is and what He is like. Maybe we'd guess that His emotions depended on the weather. On sunny days, we'd think He was happy and that we had done something to please Him. On rainy days, we'd assume He was sad and that we had done something to hurt Him. On stormy days, we might assume that He was angry—that we had done something to upset Him.

Or maybe we'd hypothesize that He was the sun. Or the rain. Or maybe we'd think that He lives underground—pushing up plants and trees at a whim and watching us from below. But we wouldn't even know if He was a he, would we? We would have no idea what God is like.

The possibilities would be endless. And no matter what theories we came up with about Him, we'd have no guarantee that we were ever close to being right about who He is.

But thankfully, that's not how God wants things to be. He wants us to know who He is.

Amazing. The God of the universe—who is completely sufficient in and of Himself and has no need for us to know anything about Him—has chosen to tell us who He is. He has chosen to reveal His heart to us. There's something so loving about that. When you open up and share your heart with someone, you care about them deeply. Letting someone in on who you are is an act of trust, an act of love. So the reality of our life is that the King values us so much and loves us so much that He chose to let us in.

Thank You, God, for sharing who You are with us. Thank You that You didn't leave us in the dark about what You are like. Please continue to teach us who You are—we all have misconceptions about You or areas where we need a deeper understanding of Your power, Your goodness, and Your heart. We want to know You more, Lord. The deepest parts of us cry out for more of You. So lead us further up and further in.

God's Names 1-5

Name_01_Elohim

God wants us to know Him, so He gave us His Word. Throughout it, He shares His names with us as well as events where He revealed those aspects of who He is. God has a lot of names—it's impossible to capture an infinite divine Being with just a few limited human words. But even though God is beautifully complex, He continues to tell us more and more about who He is.

WHAT'S THE FIRST THING GOD CHOSE TO TELL US ABOUT HIMSELF? THE FIRST NAME HE USED FOR HIMSELF IS ELOHIM.

[READ] *Elohim* (pronounced el-o-HEEM) appears as the word *God* in our Bibles. So anytime you see the word *God* in your Bible, it means *Elohim*—the only God, the God over all gods, the Creator.

Scripture tells us about this name of God in its very first line: “*In the beginning God [Elohim] created the heavens and the earth*” (*Genesis 1:1*).

God, *Elohim*, is the Beginning and Source of all things. He is the one who created everything: the heavens and the earth; the sun, moon, and stars; plants and animals; everything. He spun the planets into space. He separated light from darkness, water from dry land, day from night. He breathed His very life into mankind. This ancient name for God contains the ideas of His authority and sovereignty, as well as His creative power.

[THINK] In everyday conversation, we use the word *God* as a title, as a proper noun. In a way, it's a generic title for the infinite Being who is in authority over the universe. But the name *Elohim* is more descriptive; it's more meaningful than the word *God*. It's also mysterious.

The Hebrew word *elohim* (with a lowercase “e”) can be used to refer to the plural of other pagan gods—like we use the word *gods* with a lowercase “g.” But *Elohim* is also God's name, which means that He is the God over all gods.

Elohim is also a mysterious name because it's used as a singular noun—to refer to the one single Being who is the Source and Creator of all things. But in Hebrew, *Elohim* has a plural ending—“him” is a plural ending in Hebrew. So *Elohim* is a plural noun used to refer to a single Being. That hints that the one true God is both One, and Three—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

[LIVE] Take a minute and look at your surroundings. Think about how massive our planet is. Think about the myriad of things that are contained on our planet. Think about the vastness of the universe. *Elohim* is the One who created all of these things. He invented matter and gravity and life. And He wants you to know Him. Amazing.

[NXT LVL] Read Isaiah 45:18; Genesis 1:31.

“I AM THE LORD,
AND THERE
IS NO OTHER”
(ISAIAH 45:18).

Name_02_Yahweh

WE ALL HAVE A PERSONAL NAME. YOUR NAME IS YOUR PERSONAL TITLE; IT'S HOW YOU'RE KNOWN. GOD HAS A PERSONAL NAME TOO.

[READ] Moses actually asked God what His name is. And God replied, “*I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ . . . This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation*” (Exodus 3:14-15).

I AM WHO I AM. In Hebrew, what God might have said out loud could have sounded something like “Yahweh”—pronounced “yah-WAY” in English. The correct pronunciation of God’s personal name isn’t exactly known because Hebrew doesn’t have any vowels, so there are a few blanks to fill in. Plus, Yahweh is considered so holy that the Jewish people don’t speak this name out loud, so the actual pronunciation has been lost.

There’s a lot of mystery around God’s personal name—exactly what you would expect for a mere word that is trying to capture all of the Being that is God.

[THINK] While the pronunciation isn’t exactly known, the meaning of God’s personal name is clear—God is the one who always is. Yahweh has always existed and always will. All of life is contained in Him. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Yahweh is the name most frequently used for God in the Old Testament. When the Bible uses God’s personal name, it appears as LORD in small caps. So when you see LORD in Scripture, it means Yahweh.

[LIVE] Yahweh has always existed. He is transcendent—He exists beyond the created universe. All that God is, He has always been. And He will be Himself forever. Yahweh can’t change because He’s perfect and will always be perfect.

Yahweh is infinite. He is beyond us. And you can rest in His transcendence, His “otherness.” This self-existent Being, Yahweh, who existed before time and before the universe, wants you to rest in Him.

[NXT LVL] Like Elohim, Jewish people do not speak God’s divine name out loud. Instead, they say Adonai, which is “Lord” in our Bibles. “Lord” means master or owner. Read Exodus 3:14-15; Exodus 34:5-7; Revelation 1:8; Psalm 102:25-27; Hebrews 13:8.

Name_03_Father

THE NEVER-ENDING, AWESOME, SELF-EXISTENT GOD CHOSE FOR US TO REFER TO HIM WITH ONE OF THE MOST TENDER, INTIMATE NAMES OF ALL: ABBA.

[READ] Jesus referred to God as Abba. (see Mark 14:36). It’s an intimate, personal name for “Father.” When Jesus was on earth, people were a little taken aback that He used such a familiar term with God—after all, God is so other and beyond us, so holy. But Jesus told us that God is our Father.

[THINK] God is our true Father, the one who made us. He knit every bit of us together—He gave us our gifts and talents, He wired and structured our brains, He gave us our personalities, He even chose the color of our eyes. And like a proud father, He loves the way He made us.

[LIVE] Think about the best father you have ever seen. Think of what he is like, how he feels about his children. Think of how he disciplines his children, how he guides them to live in such a way that they experience real, true, good life. Think of how this father has conversations with his children, how he gives them advice and listens to their hearts. Think of how this good father loves to give his kids good things. Think of how this good father is affectionate and kind toward his children.

And then think about this: God is your perfect heavenly Father. He is always looking on you with love. He is the greatest, most perfect Abba Father of all. He is always looking on you with love. He loves hearing about your life and what’s going on in your heart. He will not lead you astray when He guides you, because He knows the plans He has for your life (see Jeremiah 29:11). He wants you to experience His abundant life for you. He looks on you with a Father’s joy—He loves how He made you and He loves watching you become and be who He made you to be.

This perfect Father loves you with all of His heart (read Jeremiah 31:3). He loves you so much that He died for you.

[NXT LVL] Read Matthew 7:9-11; Isaiah 64:8; John 20:17.

Name_04_The_Son

GOD IS NOT JUST GOD THE FATHER; HE IS ALSO GOD THE SON. JESUS WAS KNOWN AS JESUS THE CHRIST—OR IN HEBREW, YESHUA THE MESSIAH.

[READ] The word “Messiah” comes from the Hebrew word “Mashiach,” which means “the anointed one,” or “the chosen one.” In Old Testament times, when God called someone to a specific position—like a priest, prophet, or king—they were anointed with a special oil to show that God had called them, that He had set them aside for a specific work. God also told Moses to anoint the tabernacle, everything in it, the altar, all the furnishings, even Aaron and his sons and their robes, and that by doing this, everything would be holy and consecrated (or set apart) to Him.

[THINK] The Jews had read the prophecies in the Old Testament about God’s coming Messiah, His anointed, chosen One (see Isaiah 42:1; 61:1-3; Psalms 16 and 22; Daniel 9). But when Jesus the Son came to earth to be our Savior, they didn’t understand what the Messiah’s true mission would be, and that is to save people from their sins. They didn’t understand that He would set up a spiritual kingdom rather than an earthly kingdom.

Others, however, saw and understood that Jesus the Son was the Messiah, God’s chosen One, His anointed One, who was set apart for the work God had given Him to do—to save us from our sins. And the Gospels repeatedly tell us who Jesus really was and is.

[LIVE] In Israel, the practice of anointing people and items with oil foreshadowed God’s work through His Son, Jesus. So we see the importance of oil through the word “anointed” and its associations with Jesus. Anointing oil was used on priests and kings for special purposes as a sign that God had set that person apart. In the same way, Jesus is our High Priest and our King, God’s chosen One.

[NXT LVL] Read Exodus 40:1-16; Matthew 16:16; Luke 4:17-21; John 1:40-49; 4:25, 26.

Name_05_The_Holy_Spirit

GOD IS NOT JUST GOD THE FATHER, OR GOD THE SON, BUT HE IS ALSO GOD THE SPIRIT. GOD THE SPIRIT IS A WONDERFULLY BEAUTIFUL AND UNIQUE REALITY OF WHO GOD IS.

[READ] The word *Spirit* in English has been translated from two words in Scripture—*ruach* in Hebrew and *pneuma* in Greek. *Ruach* and *pneuma* both mean three words: spirit, wind, or breath.

God is God the Spirit, God the Wind, or God the Breath. God the Spirit is free-flowing, uninhibited, and ever-present.

“*The Spirit gives life,*” Jesus said (John 6:63). He is the “*Spirit of truth*” (John 14:17). And Paul taught that when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, He will produce this kind of fruit in us: “*love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control*” (Galatians 5:22-23). So God the Spirit is a free-flowing, ever-present breath who brings life, truth, love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control to us.

[THINK] When God created Adam, He breathed the Spirit of life into him (Genesis 2:7). After the resurrection, Jesus appeared to the disciples in an upper room and breathed on them to give them the Holy Spirit (John 20:21-22). And when a person decides to follow God, God gives that person His Holy Spirit, His breath, His life. The Holy Spirit comes to live inside of us. It’s symbolic of a regeneration or a new creation.

[LIVE] This free-flowing, ever-present breath of God is our Guide. Jesus told His disciples: “*When he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth*” (John 16:13). God the Spirit will lead us as we walk through life. He will steer us through different situations by speaking to us through God’s Word and through impressions on our hearts. As we submit to Him daily, surrendering our heart, mind, and will to Him and to Him alone, He will fill us with life, truth, love, joy, peace, forbearance (patience), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—His fingerprints.

Right now, God’s very Spirit lives in you. God has moved in so incredibly close. What an honor. You are very loved.

[NXT LVL] Memorize Romans 8:26; John 16:7-15, 20:21-22.



I HOPE
THIS IS
REAL!

Did Jesus appear in God's plan out of the blue?

Mike has been a Christian for a long time. He has gone to church for years, and has always known the Bible pretty well. Still, he had questions.

"Sometimes as a Christian, you think, 'I hope this is real,'" he said.

One source of Mike's questions stemmed from the apparent divide between the Old and New Testaments. The Old seemed to be for Jews, the New for Christians. Did they really connect? Was one wrong and the other right? Did Jesus just appear in God's plan out of the blue?

Those questions were answered when Mike went through the *Jesus in the Old Testament* Bible study with a small group through his church. To see Jesus in the Old Testament was an awakening. It helped Mike make sense of Hebrew Scriptures and realize that Jesus' ministry and the early church were deeply rooted in everything God had already revealed.

"The mind-opening thing for me was that when the Gospels talk about Jesus quoting Scripture, He was quoting the Old Testament," he says. "It helped me realize the Bible is a complete work, not just half and half. It has brought me closer to God. It certainly helps me know who He is."

And it confirmed what he had long believed to be true. "I'd always hoped what I believed about God was true. Now I know that it is. This proves to me it's real."

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT IS A BIBLE STUDY FOR SMALL GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS THAT EXPLORES REFERENCES TO, SYMBOLISM OF, AND PROPHECIES OF THE COMING MESSIAH IN EVERY MAJOR SECTION OF THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES, FROM GENESIS THROUGH MALACHI. FREE VIDEOS HERE.



Names_6-10

THOSE WHO LIVE IN THE SHELTER OF THE MOST HIGH WILL FIND REST IN THE SHADOW OF THE ALMIGHTY. THIS I DECLARE ABOUT THE LORD: HE ALONE IS MY REFUGE, MY PLACE OF SAFETY; HE IS MY GOD, AND I TRUST HIM (PSALM 91:1-2 NLT).



Name_06_God_Almighty

God's names not only show us what He did in a certain situation, but who He is—the core of His character and His heart. These next five names teach us we have nothing to fear, we can be whole, we are intensely loved, we will be provided for, and we are never alone. Rest in the truth of these names. This is who your God is.

GOD IS MIGHTY. HE IS STRONG. NOTHING IN THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE—THE PHYSICAL REALM OR THE SPIRITUAL REALM—IS MORE POWERFUL THAN HE IS. GOD IS ALMIGHTY—EL SHADDAI.

[READ] “When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, ‘I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.’” (Genesis 17:1-2).

God is “God Almighty,” or El Shaddai—the Strong One. When God first introduced Himself as the Strong One, He was promising childless, 99-year-old Abraham that he would have his own biological son with his almost-as-ancient wife. A 99-year-old man having a son sounds impossible. But not to God Almighty, the most powerful Being in the universe. Nothing is impossible for Him.

[THINK] In the Old Testament, the name El Shaddai appears at least 40 times—in the books of Genesis and Job. If you read the passages listed below, you’ll see that this name for God is used when He is making a covenant promise. El Shaddai refers to God’s strength and power—not just in theory, but in our everyday life. God is bigger and more powerful than anything we can ever face. And He is powerful enough to keep His promises.

[LIVE] God’s all-powerfulness means that we can run to Him as our refuge no matter what life throws our way. We can hide in Him and rest in Him in any circumstance or situation because He is more powerful than anything that comes at us. And after all is said and done, our all-powerful God will finally defeat evil and bring us home to live forever with Him.

What in your life right now seems bigger than God? What do you feel afraid of? What do you see in the world that makes you feel weak? Since God is the most powerful Being in the universe and He is on your side, what do you have to fear?

Walk under the covering of God’s strength. Walk in confidence that His power is with you and for you. Because it is.

[NXT LVL] Read Genesis 17:1-2; 28:3; 35:11; 43:14; 48:3; and Psalm 91:1-2.

Name_07_Healer

OUR WORLD IS SO BROKEN. AND IT HURTS US. IS THERE SOMEONE WHO CAN HEAL? THERE IS. HIS NAME IS JEHOVAH RAPHA.

[READ] When the Israelites were leaving the Red Sea, God led them into the desert. For three days they went without water. Then they came to a place that had water, but it was bitter and undrinkable. *“Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became fit to drink. There the LORD issued a ruling and instruction for them and put them to the test. He said, “If you listen carefully to the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you” (Exodus 15:25-26).*

A remedy was needed to fix the water, but the Israelites were helpless to do anything. Only God could. And He did. He removed the impurities from every single water molecule. He cleansed. He healed. He is Jehovah Rapha.

[THINK] God “healed” the water from all impurities, and then He gave the Israelites a new name for Himself: Jehovah Rapha (Ex. 15:26). Healing the water was a demonstration of God’s power to heal impurity, corruption, contamination. But He doesn’t just heal water; He heals people—physically, emotionally, spiritually. Healing isn’t just something God does once in a while; it’s who He is.

God can, and will, heal everything—including our hearts and souls. And He promises to do so. Sometimes God’s healing happens on this side of heaven, and sometimes it doesn’t. Even if God doesn’t heal us while we’re on earth, He promises that He uses what is broken for good (Romans 8:28). And one day, when God restores our fallen world as He originally intended it to be, everything will be perfectly whole and healed.

[LIVE] Where are you broken? Where do you need healing? Do you have a broken heart? A broken body? A broken relationship? Ask Jehovah Rapha, the God who heals, to step in. He longs to restore and mend.

[NXT LVL] Read Psalm 103 and memorize verses 2-3. Also read 2 Kings 5:10; Psalm 34:18; Daniel 4:34. And read about Jesus, the Great Physician: Matthew 4:23; Mark 6:56; Luke 5:20.

Name_08_ Jealous_One

WHEN SOMEONE FIERCELY LOVES YOU, THEY FEEL JEALOUSY IF ANOTHER PERSON STEALS AWAY YOUR ATTENTION. IT’S THE SAME WAY WITH GOD. HIS VERY NAME IS JEALOUS.

[READ] On Mount Sinai, God told Moses, *“I am making a covenant with you. . . . Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God. Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land; for when they prostitute themselves to their gods and sacrifice to them, they will invite you and you will eat their sacrifices” (Exodus 34:10, 14-15).*

God is jealous for the affections of His people. His name is Jealous.

[THINK] God compared worshiping other gods with prostitution. Why such strong wording? Because the amazing reality of our lives is this: God has put His heart on the line for us. He wants us to love Him and only Him. God’s love for us is so intense that when we give our hearts over to anything but Him, He compares it to prostitution, adultery, and cheating on Him.

God wanted the Israelites to tear down their altars to other gods because He knew that those gods were false. In the same way, God doesn’t want us to give our hearts to lesser things when He is everything we need and are looking for. It’s not that we can’t love other things or people. It’s just that anything that’s truly good in other things or people ultimately comes from Him. And it’s only through a relationship with Him that we learn to fully appreciate those things and richly experience them. For example, God is the source of perfect love, so in putting Him first, we learn how to love even more deeply. He wants to be first.

[LIVE] What or who competes with God for your affection? What are you attracted to in those things or people? How can you put God first? How can you enjoy those things and people through Him? You will experience them more completely as you love God first.

[NXT LVL] Read Zechariah 8:2.

Name_09_Provider

WE WORRY ABOUT OUR LIVES. BUT GOD PROMISES THAT IF WE TRUST IN HIM, HE WILL TAKE CARE OF US. GOD IS JEHOVAH JIREH—THE GOD WHO PROVIDES.

[READ] God had given Abraham an odd request—to sacrifice the promised son he had waited years to have. Abraham obeyed and prepared an altar on which to kill his son. As Abraham lifted the knife to kill Isaac, *“the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, ‘Abraham! Abraham! . . . Do not lay a hand on the boy. . . . Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.’ Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, ‘On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided’ ”* (Genesis 22:11-14).

God is Jehovah Jireh—The God Who Provides.

[THINK] The scene with Abraham and Isaac is such an uncomfortable scene. But in its discomfort, it illustrates an amazing point. Because while God stopped Abraham from killing his son, years later He didn’t stay His own hand when it came to His own Son, Jesus. Why? Because in Jesus’ death, God was providing for us. He was providing us with salvation. He was providing the only cure for our lethal disease, sin.

[LIVE] And while salvation is huge, that’s not all that God has provided. *“My God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 4:19).

So what do you need? Food, shelter, safety, friendship, love, rest, courage, patience, purpose, help? God will take care of it all.

What are you scared that God will not provide for you? What do you worry about?

Remember this: God has never dropped you. He has always taken care of you. Spend a few minutes remembering how God has faithfully taken care of your every need.

[NXT LVL] Read Matthew 6:25-34; Romans 8:31-34.

Name_10_The_God_Who_Sees

GOD IS SO BIG THAT IT’S EASY TO BELIEVE HE IS DISTANT. WE OFTEN WONDER, “GOD, DO YOU SEE WHAT’S GOING ON HERE?” YES, HE DOES. GOD IS EL ROI—THE GOD WHO SEES.

[READ] Hagar, the servant of Abram and Sarai, had been mistreated by Sarai, so she ran away.

“The angel of the LORD found Hagar near a spring in the desert. . . . And he said, ‘Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?’

“ ‘I’m running away from my mistress Sarai,’ she answered.

“Then the angel of the LORD told her, ‘Go back to your mistress and submit to her. . . . I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count.’ . . .

She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: ‘You are the God who sees me,’ for she said, ‘I have now seen the One who sees me’ ” (Genesis 16:7-13).

God, the One who sees, saw the runaway slave in the desert and He comforted her.

[THINK] Have you ever wondered: Does God know what’s going on? Does He see? The Bible says: *“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight”* (Hebrews 4:13).

God sees every detail of your life. Have a thought in your head? God sees it. Someone wronged you and you’re hurt? God saw the act that wronged you and He sees your pain. You did the right thing and nobody noticed? God saw it and is proud of your faithfulness. You did the wrong thing and are feeling overwhelmed with guilt? God sees your heart and stands ready to forgive and heal you.

You’re always on God’s radar. And His eyes don’t look on you with judgment or indifference. His heart is involved. He is always tenderly watching you.

[LIVE] What in your life feels beyond God’s sight? What do you see in the world that you wonder if God sees? Do you see His love for you? Rest in the fact that right now, God is lovingly looking on you. He knows your heart and He loves you very much.

[NXT LVL] Memorize Hebrews 4:13; Psalm 139.



A LIFELONG JOURNEY;
A LIFELONG FASCINATION

Getting beyond the book of Ezra

Chuck Lovell had read the Bible before—some of it anyway—and had found it interesting and helpful. In fact, he’d made it as far as the book of Ezra in a high school Bible study. But he kept losing his place, then his enthusiasm.

As a Christian, Chuck knew the Bible was important, and that he should be reading it regularly. But “should” doesn’t make a goal easier, and it doesn’t take the mystery out of God’s Word.

In 1990, Chuck moved

to the Milwaukee area and got involved in a new church. “Cold, lonely, and needing something to do,” he took advantage of an announcement for a Walk Thru the Bible *ot-LIVE* event. “It sounded like it would be good for me.”



EVERY YEAR,
I LEARN
SOMETHING
NEW AND GET
TO KNOW
HIM BETTER.”

The instructor caught his attention from the first moment, and the memory techniques made it easy for him to put together those pieces that had long seemed so incoherent. The Bible seemed to come alive for him.

“The event helped spark a lifelong fascination with the Bible,” Chuck said. He has read through it every year since then, trying out different translations or even different languages each year. At first he bought the *Daily Walk Bible* and found it to be a helpful follow-up to the event, reinforcing the overview of the biblical story and adding much-needed detail.

Chuck appreciates the Bible’s historical and literary qualities, but he knows it offers so much more. He credits it with helping him understand God’s bigger purposes in the events of history; with giving him a Christian worldview; with helping him through life’s most difficult seasons; with building his relationships with family, friends, and co-workers; and, of course, with cultivating his relationship with God.

That’s a lot of fruit from a church event on a cold and lonely night more than 25 years ago, but that’s the kind of impact God’s Word can have—especially when it finally fits together.



THE *DAILY WALK BIBLE*
TAKES YOU THROUGH THE
BIBLE IN ONE YEAR.

Names_11-15

I LOVE YOU LORD; YOU ARE MY STRENGTH. THE LORD IS MY ROCK, MY FORTRESS, AND MY SAVIOR; MY GOD IS MY ROCK, IN WHOM I FIND PROTECTION. HE IS MY SHIELD, THE POWER THAT SAVES ME, AND MY PLACE OF SAFETY. I CALLED ON THE LORD, WHO IS WORTHY OF PRAISE (PSALM 18:1-3 NLT).

Name_11_

The_Lord_Is_My_Banner

We tend to gravitate toward the cuddly, cozy, feel-good characteristics of God. And those are true. But while God is our Abba Father who loves to comfort us, He is also an awe-inspiring Warrior who fights against injustice and for the salvation of the poor and oppressed. Stand amazed!

IN OUR BROKEN WORLD, WE NEED SOMEONE TO PROTECT US, WHO WILL FIGHT FOR US. THAT'S OUR GOD. HIS NAME IS JEHOVAH NISSI—THE LORD IS MY BANNER.

[READ] While the Israelites were on the way to the Promised Land, the Amalekites came to fight against them. Moses told the commander Joshua to go to battle against them, and that he would stand on a hill overlooking the battle.

*“As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. When Moses’ hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword. Then the LORD said to Moses, . . . ‘I will completely blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven.’ Moses built an altar and called it *The Lord is my Banner*” (Exodus 17:11-15).*

God is Jehovah Nissi, The Lord Is My Banner.

[THINK] What does “The Lord Is My Banner” mean? Think of an army or a sports team. Their flag or banner tells who they are and what cause or school they belong to. It’s the symbol that encourages and inspires those who belong.

God is the flag lifted up for those who love Him. He is out to enforce His victory against the kingdom of evil. We’ve declared our side, and since we’re under His banner, He will defend us. He is our protective covering, like He was for His people in the battle against the Amalekites. Anyone who messes with us messes with Him.

[LIVE] Do you try to fight your battles alone? Why? Rest in the reality that God, whose banner flies over you. He is protecting you, and He will give you courage for everything you’re up against. Ask Him to fight for you.

[NXT LVL] Ask God to help you live fully aware of His covering. Ask Him to help you live confidently because you’re under His protection. Read Exodus 17:8-16.

Name_12_The_Lord_Is_My_Righteousness

EVEN THOUGH WE ARE SINFUL, GOD HAS GIVEN US JESUS' RIGHTEOUSNESS. HE IS OUR RIGHTEOUS SAVIOR.

[READ] Hundreds of years before Jesus came, God said: “*The days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior*” (Jeremiah 23:5-6).

“*God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God*” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

God is Jehovah Tzidkenu, The Lord Our Righteousness.

[THINK] The righteousness God gives us is not skin-deep. It's not a change of clothes or an image to put on. God doesn't just redeem us and make us righteous, He *is* our righteousness for us.

When we've sinned and really feel like a failure as a Jesus-follower, we must remember that our good standing before God wasn't given to us because we behaved well. Our righteousness before God never depended on our ability to obey really well. Our righteousness is Jesus.

We have been made right with God because we believed that on the cross, Jesus took our sin and gave us His righteousness.

[LIVE] Are you feeling defeated because you just can't walk with God perfectly? Do you feel unworthy because you keep sinning? Do you feel that you can't come into God's presence because you're too messed up? Remember Jehovah Tzidkenu—The Lord Our Righteousness. Remember Jesus. He is your perfect, spotless righteousness. Right now, as God looks at you, He sees you as righteous as Jesus is.

You can walk into God's presence covered in the righteousness of Jesus. Rest in that and live in confidence.

[NXT LVL] Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:21. Read Isaiah 11:1; Zechariah 3:8-10.

Name_13_Refuge

WE CLING TO THINGS THAT ARE STRONGER THAN US. WE HIDE IN PLACES THAT OFFER MORE STRENGTH THAN WE CAN FIND ON OUR OWN. GOD IS ALL THOSE THINGS. HE IS OUR REFUGE, PROTECTOR, STRONG TOWER, ROCK, FORTRESS, AND SHIELD.

[READ] David wrote this psalm and sang it the day God rescued him from all his enemies and from Saul:

“*I love you, LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I called to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I have been saved from my enemies*” (Psalm 18:1-3).

[THINK] God provides a safe place where His children can find refuge. David called it the shadow of God's wings. As believers, we can always know that we are safe under the protection of our Father.

“*Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed*” (Psalm 57:1).

No matter what life is throwing at us, we can “step into” God and hide in Him.

[LIVE] Are there things in your life that seem bigger than you or that you feel you need protection from? What are they? How do you naturally deal with them? What difference would it make in your life if you went to God and allowed Him to be your strength? Hide yourself in Him, cling to Him, and praise Him for who He is.

When you are in trouble, pour out your heart to God and ask Him to help you. Then step under His protective wings. He is there and He will protect you.

[NXT LVL] Read Psalm 62:5-9 and know this: sometimes you may need to command your heart to rest in God, like David did. Do it, and rest. Read 2 Samuel 22.

Name_14_God_of_the_Angel_Armies

OUR GOD IS NOT ONLY A WARRIOR, BUT HE COMMANDS AN ARMY—OF ANGELS. HE IS THE GOD OF THE ANGEL ARMIES.

[READ] God is Jehovah Sabaoth—the Lord of Hosts or the God of the Angel Armies. In the Bible, God’s title as commander of the armies of angels appears as LORD Almighty or LORD of Hosts.

When David fought Goliath he told him: *“You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied”* (1 Samuel 17:45).

When Elisha and his servant were surrounded by a foreign king’s army, the servant was afraid. *“Don’t be afraid,” [Elisha] answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see.” Then the LORD opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha”* (2 Kings 6:15-17).

[THINK] Do you ever feel outnumbered? Don’t forget who is on your side! God commands armies of angels who fight for us. The physical world is what we see and experience every day, so it’s easy to forget that a far greater spiritual battle is being fought too. When evil seems to be prevailing, ask God to open your eyes. There are more on our side than on theirs. In Revelation 5:11, John writes, *“Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand.”*

[LIVE] The interaction of the physical and spiritual realms is a mystery to us. But it’s clear that God used both the armies of angels and the people of Israel, including Elisha, Elisha’s servant, and the Israelite army to defeat His enemies. Your responsibility is to keep doing the next right thing in every situation, to keep following Him, and to keep fighting for His kingdom with every decision you make.

And when you need help, call on the God of the Angel Armies. Then stand firm and with confidence. He and His forces are with you.

[NXT LVL] Read 2 Kings 19:35 to see what just one angel was able to do in one night. And read 2 Kings 6:8-23 for the story of Elisha and his servant.

Name_15_Judge

NO MATTER WHAT PEOPLE’S DIFFERENT THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ARE ON GOD, HIS CHARACTER DOES NOT CHANGE. HE IS THE JUST AND FAIR JUDGE.

[READ] Our God is the Judge: *“He rules the world in righteousness and judges the peoples with equity”* (Psalm 9:8).

And one day He will judge every single one of us for what we have done: *“I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books”* (Revelation 20:12).

[THINK] Revelation 19:11-15 teaches that Jesus is going to come back to earth. Why? Because He is the Judge. And there are things about this broken world that need to be made right. We don’t always like to think about God’s wrath, but His anger is always justified. Pain, suffering, destruction, and injustice make Him angry. As Judge, He has the authority to punish those who have stood against Him.

God is also the One who will make all things right again. He sees all things and will make sure that justice wins out.

“The LORD reigns forever; he has established his throne for judgment. He rules the world in righteousness and judges the peoples with equity. The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble” (Psalm 9:7-9).

[LIVE] How do you feel about God as the Judge? What in your life causes that aspect of God to bring fear or comfort? Where in the world do you see a clear need for God’s justice? How can you be involved in bringing about God’s justice on earth until He brings it in full? If you seek after God’s heart, His judgment will be a source of comfort and hope. Take heart, God is a just and fair Judge.

[NXT LVL] Read Psalm 36:6. What does it mean to you that God’s justice is “like the great deep”? Read Revelation 19:11-15.

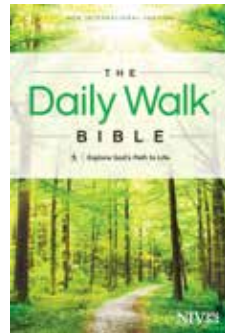
RESOURCES

If you want a closer walk with God through His Word, these resources are a great place to start!



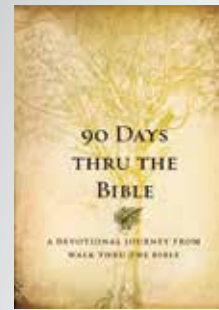
otRECALL

“Creation! Fall! Flood! Nations! ...”
Our Old Testament flashcards will help you remember the storyline and hand motions from the *otLIVE* event.



Daily Walk Bible

Read through the Bible in one year with the *Daily Walk Bible*—it offers a simple 365-day reading plan and tools to enrich your experience and your understanding, to help you on the journey of walking with God.



90 Days Thru the Bible

A 90-day devotional journey for individuals or small groups that guides you through the major sections of Scripture, meditating on how each story and theme, like the pieces of a puzzle, beautifully contributes to God’s great story. You’ll come to understand the heart of God, and the awe-inspiring story He’s telling, like never before. Comes with a 13-session guide and discussion questions for reflection.



Keyword Learning System

[OT & NT]

The Keyword Learning System is an innovative and fun way for children to learn and remember the “big ideas” of the books of the Bible. Eye-catching graphics filled with lots of hidden keys help unlock the big ideas of each book—from Genesis to Revelation!

Devotional Magazines



Daily Walk

Daily Walk is designed to guide you through your daily reading of the Scripture, taking you from Genesis to Revelation in the span of a year. With application and insight for each daily reading, this is the Bible reading plan that will get you through Leviticus! Includes a downloadable small group guide.



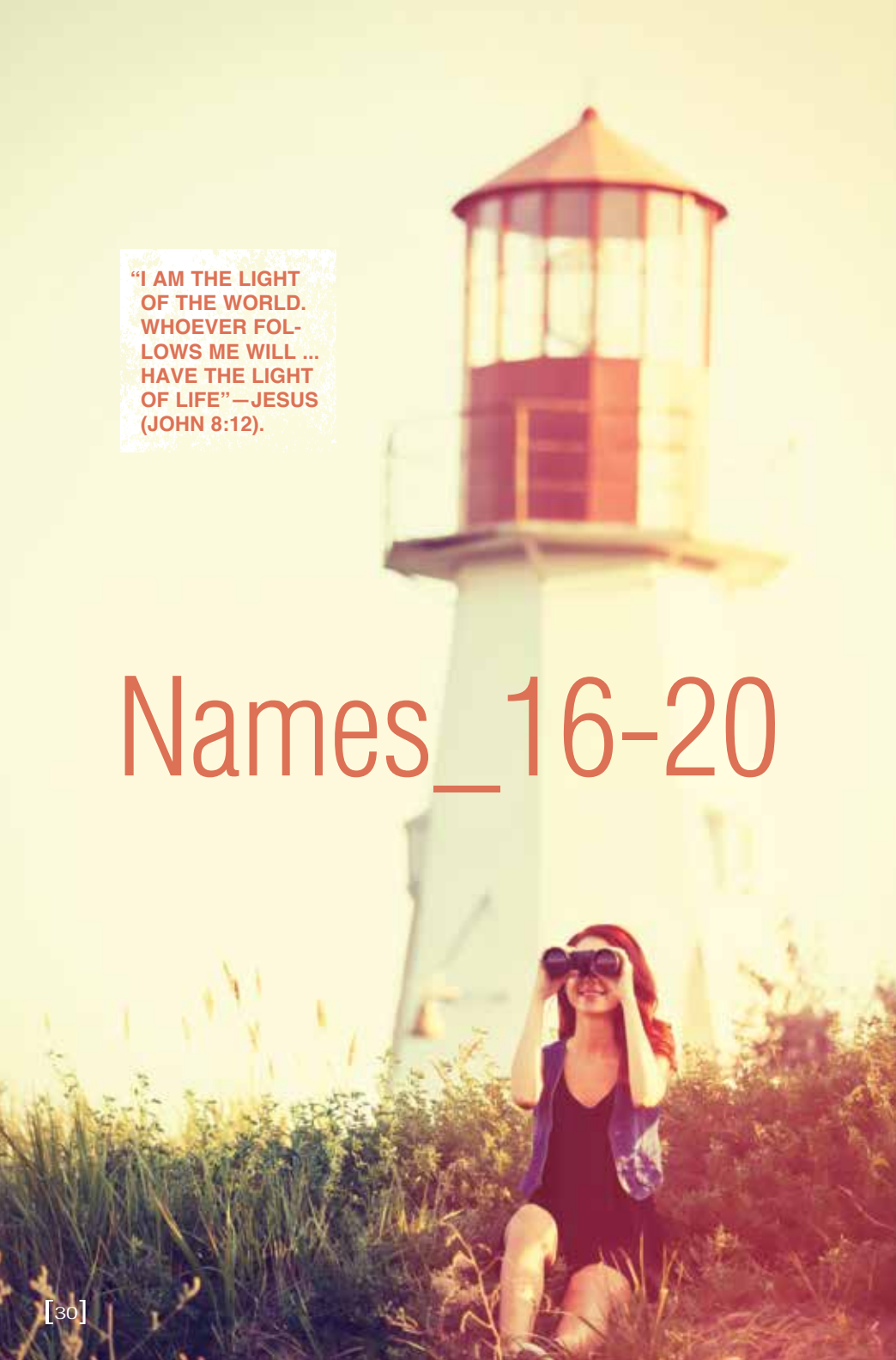
Closer Walk

Closer Walk is a bimonthly devotional magazine that is designed to help you read through the entire New Testament in a year. At an easy, manageable pace, you’ll go deep with the help of timeless devotional messages from such esteemed theologians as Charles Spurgeon, C.S. Lewis, John Wesley, Matthew Henry, Oswald Chambers, and so many more.



indeed

Award-winning *indeed* magazine is a bi-monthly devotional that helps you explore the heart of God and is designed to illuminate themes in Scripture. Each week focuses on a new theme with daily readings to deepen your understanding of Scripture as well as God’s heart. Insightful articles punctuate the themes with application and testimonies of how God works through His Word. Includes a downloadable small group guide.



"I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. WHOEVER FOLLOWS ME WILL ... HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE"—JESUS (JOHN 8:12).

Names_16-20

Name_16_ Light_of_the_World

Our amazingly good God never changes. Every character trait revealed by one of His names is an attribute that He is, all the time. God is always the Light of the World, the King of Kings, the Sustainer, the Good Shepherd, and the Bridegroom. We can love Him and we can trust Him—always.

BEFORE JESUS CAME, WE LIVED IN THE DARK KINGDOM WHERE TRUE FULFILLMENT IS ALWAYS OUT OF REACH, LONELINESS ABOUNDS, AND EVIL LAYS OUT PERSONALIZED TRAPS TO KEEP US CHAINED.

[READ] We were trying to survive, with no way to get back to God—the One we longed for. Lost in the dark, we had no hope.

Then Jesus stepped in. Into our shadowy planet under the control of darkness, full of aimless and wandering people, Jesus is the Light of the World. *"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).

[THINK] God shines light for three reasons: He gives us direction to show us the way to go, He shines light to expose things hidden in darkness, and He shines light to show us truth.

Jesus, the Light of the World, gave us direction—while we were aimless, Jesus lit the path before our feet and showed us the way back to God and the path to real, true life. Jesus, the Light of the World, exposed what was hidden in darkness. While we were in the dark about the true situation of the world, Jesus exposed the curse of death that we were under, telling us about Satan, his kingdom, and his evil intentions. And Jesus, the Light of the World, showed us the truth—He showed us God Himself, the One we were longing for.

[LIVE] When a light comes on in a dark room, darkness flees. No matter how vast the darkness, it's shattered by one flicker of light.

Today, the Light of the World still shines. He will give you direction, guiding you to the ways of life. He will expose the traps that Satan has set for you. He will shine on parts of your heart to show you where He wants to set you free—free from bondage to whatever has you enslaved, free from sin, free from the pain of your past, free! And He continues to shine to show you who God is and how much He loves you. Be warmed and comforted by the Light of the World.

[NXT LVL] Read Isaiah 9:1-3; Luke 2:22-35; John 1:9, 12:46.

Name_17_King_of_Kings

HISTORY IS FULL OF STORIES OF POWERFUL PEOPLE. RULERS AND KINGS WHO CONTROLLED MILLIONS OF PEOPLE AND LED MIGHTY ARMIES. CONQUERORS WHO TOOK OVER MULTIPLE NATIONS. KINGDOMS THAT EXPANDED ACROSS ENTIRE CONTINENTS. BUT NO RULER HAS EVER COME CLOSE TO THE POWER AND AUTHORITY HELD BY GOD, THE KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

[READ] *“God [is] the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see” (1 Timothy 6:15-16).*

God is the unconquerable conqueror. *“They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings” (Revelation 17:14).*

[THINK] While kings measure their power in terms of how many people are their subjects, how many acres are in their control, or how powerful their armies are, the power of the King of Kings is beyond measure. This King commands the universe. He commands the stars to come out each night (Isaiah 40:26) and He gives orders to the morning (Job 38:12). He laid the earth’s foundation (Job 38:4). The extent of His rule is immeasurable.

Jesus is King. And the entire universe is at His command. All hail the King!

[LIVE] We are subjects of the King of Kings and live under His authority as citizens of His kingdom. We don’t serve an oppressive, self-serving ruler. Instead we serve a King who is everything a King should be—good, selfless, loving, all-powerful, full of wisdom, and deeply committed to His people. He loves each of His citizens and knows each of us completely. He is an irresistibly good King, and it’s so good to live under His reign. He will always protect you, always fight for you, always make the best decision for you, and always cover you. His kingdom will never end and you will always have a place as a citizen of His kingdom.

[NXT LVL] When Job began to question God, God reminded Job that He is the Ruler of everything. Read Job 37–38.

Name_18_Sustainer

GOD CREATED THE WORLD AND EVERYTHING IN IT. BUT THAT’S NOT THE END OF THE STORY. HE IS NOT ONLY THE CREATOR, HE IS THE SUSTAINER.

[READ] As Sustainer, God holds everything together. *“In him all things hold together” (Colossians 1:17).*

God orchestrates everything. He even makes sure all His creatures are fed. *“The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing” (Psalm 145:15-16).*

God gives us our next breath. *“The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life” (Job 33:4).* The Sustainer maintains, carries, supports, and nourishes.

[THINK] God is the active Sustainer. He didn’t create the universe and then abandon it. The entire universe operates because He is in it all, supplying, providing, sustaining.

The earth keeps spinning around the sun and rotating on its axis because God directs it to. The sunlight bursts forth from the sun and nourishes our plants because He guides it to. Our lungs keep functioning, our hearts keep beating, our brains keep thinking, and all of the systems of our bodies keep working because God commands them to. God is the Sustainer of it all. He holds every fiber and every molecule of all creation together.

Colossians 1:17 says that Jesus holds everything together. He is holding you together now, tonight, tomorrow—every moment of every day of your life.

[LIVE] God, your Sustainer, will give you exactly what you need when you need it. He is the manna in the desert—a constant and perfectly portioned Source of strength and guidance for every day of your life.

If you’re worried about something, the way to be strong is to simply rely on Him for strength—to let Him sustain you, to let Him hold you together. He is already doing it right now. You simply have to acknowledge Him as your Sustainer, and trust.

[NXT LVL] Read Psalm 3:5, 55:22; Nehemiah 9:20-22; Colossians 1:15-20.

Name_19_Shepherd

TO PAINT A PICTURE OF GOD'S RELATIONSHIP WITH US, HE USED THE IMAGE OF A SHEPHERD WITH HIS SHEEP.

[READ] *"I am the good shepherd,"* Jesus said (John 10:11). As the Good Shepherd, God tenderly cares for us, protects us, and guides us.

"The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake" (Psalm 23:1-3).

God is our Good Shepherd.

[THINK] Sheep aren't the brightest animals. They wander off and lose their way back to the fold, making themselves vulnerable to predators. They've been known to get so distracted by nibbling at good grass that they nibble all the way off a mountainside.

God compares us to sheep. He knows our hearts and our weaknesses. He knows we have a limited range of sight. He knows that on our own we're likely to get lost, hurt ourselves, and be attacked. He knows we need guidance.

A shepherd keeps his sheep safe. He guides them to green pastures with plenty of food and places to rest. He protects them from predators. He goes after the ones that wander off. He never leaves his flock, but remains with them day and night. He knows each sheep's peculiarities. He is strong enough to defend his flock yet gentle enough to care for each one of them.

[LIVE] The Good Shepherd is a tender expression of Jesus' relationship with us. It's a name that tells us that God is always there, always protecting, always guiding. It's a name that shows how gently and patiently God loves us. He knows we're prone to mistakes, but He promises to never leave us. He is even willing to lay down His life for the sheep (John 10:11).

As part of Jesus' flock, our job is to listen to the Shepherd's voice. Ask Him for guidance, and then trust His direction for your life. He sees the entire picture and knows where to lead you next. Trust Him. He is guiding you to rich, green pastures.

[NXT LVL] Read Psalm 23; John 10:1-18.

Name_20_Bridegroom

SCRIPTURE TEACHES THAT JESUS IS A BRIDEGROOM AND WE, THE CHURCH, ARE HIS BRIDE.

[READ] While defending His disciples' actions, Jesus called Himself the bridegroom. He said: *"How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast"* (Matthew 9:15). John the Baptist described himself as the best man preparing the bride for the bridegroom's arrival (John 3:29).

In ancient Jewish culture, about a year before the weeklong wedding celebration, a legal contract was drawn up between the two families of the young man and woman who were to be married, and the couple was considered "betrothed." This contract was legally binding, so much so that a divorce was required to break it off. Scripture teaches that we are betrothed to Jesus, our bridegroom.

[THINK] All of world history is leading up to a massive wedding (see Revelation 19 and 21). The "betrothal" began when God established a covenant with Israel at Mount Sinai. The terms of the betrothal were laid out, and the people vowed to uphold their end of the covenant.

Like a betrayed bridegroom, God refers to idolatry as "adultery" and calls Israel "unfaithful" when the nation turns away from Him (Jeremiah 3).

Through Jesus, we were joined to Israel as His bride, and Revelation ends with a massive wedding feast, celebrating the marriage of the Lamb and the bride. *"Hallelujah! . . . For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready"* (Revelation 19:6-7).

[LIVE] The love that a bridegroom has for his bride is the ultimate picture of God's relationship with His people. God wants the deepest, closest, most intimate relationship possible with you.

God delights in you. He loves spending time with you and deepening your relationship with Him. He loves you tenderly, passionately, zealously, and faithfully. You bring joy to Him. And He asks that in return you love Him and enjoy His love for you.

[NXT LVL] Read Revelation 19 and 21 about the amazing wedding feast we'll be attending!

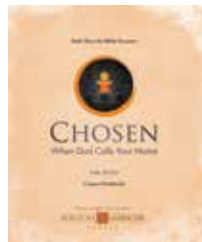
RESOURCES

These resources will take you on a deeper walk with God!

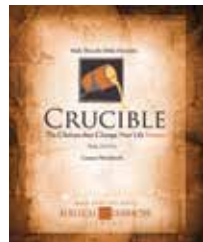
WALK THRU THE BIBLE® BIBLICAL CHARACTER SERIES



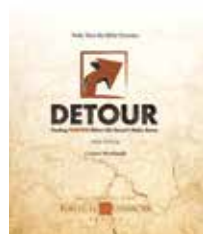
Chiseled
(the life of Peter)



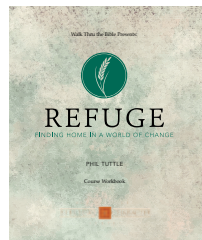
Chosen
(the life of Mary)



Crucible
(the life of David)



Detour
(the life of Joseph)



Refuge
(the life of Ruth)



Revolution
(the life of Josiah)



A small group study that delves into God's story and His work to redeem, restore, and renew His people. Dives deep into the big picture of the Old Testament (or the New Testament), giving greater understanding, points of application, what it all means, and why it's important to your life.

God's Grand Story Series *[the Bible study series]*



Jesus in the Old Testament

This Bible study shows us how Jesus can be seen all throughout the Old Testament—in the creation story and God's intent for mankind; the promise of God to Abraham to create a great nation; and the periods of slavery, wanderings, the promised land, and more.



Old Testament in the New Testament

Just as the coming of the Messiah was a fulfillment of numerous ancient prophecies from Hebrew Scripture, so was His life and ministry. Jesus pointed to ancient prophecies in the Old Testament that referred to Him, and He demonstrated how He fulfilled them in the New.



Story Thru the Bible/Old Testament or New Testament

The Bible is a collection of stories of real-life experiences of people who heard His voice, encountered His presence, or experienced His works. Each volume contains 26 stories from Scripture.



WALK THRU THE BIBLE
LANDS

Walk Thru the Bible leads tours to the Bible Lands where you can see first-hand where the stories you know and love actually happened! This is a distinctively Walk Thru the Bible experience, led by a WTB instructor and guide. Walk where Jesus walked and experience the story in a new way. You'll never read your Bible the same way again! Find out more, including how surprisingly affordable it is to **Walk Thru the Bible Lands**. Join us on one of our upcoming tours! walkthruthebiblelands.org



We've seen it in the lives of people all over the world. When people encounter the living God in His Word, everything changes. Eyes are opened. Hungry hearts are filled with truth. Lives are transformed. Families are reconciled. Entire communities are challenged to see the world through a different lens—the lens of Scripture.

When people have the tools to understand and apply the practical truths of the Bible to their lives, nothing stays the same. But for many Bible readers, obstacles stand in the way of life transformation: apathy; confusion; persecution from family, friends, or a closed government; an absence of resources; few training opportunities for pastors and Bible teachers. From “The Bible is old and irrelevant” to “I don’t know where to start,” from “I can’t even own a Bible” to “I’ve never been taught the Bible,” from “I don’t understand the Bible” to “I don’t have time to read the Bible,” and so much more, we help people everywhere live God’s Word ... and understand it.

That’s why we exist.

Since 1976, Walk Thru the Bible has helped people overcome obstacles to knowing and living God’s Word. Our innovative live events and high-quality biblical resources inspire passion and advance biblical literacy in 130 countries around the world. By following the 2 Timothy 2:2 model of equipping teachers to teach others, we will reach and impact more than two million people through our events and biblical resources this year.



Every day, God is using Walk Thru the Bible to share His Word around the world. We serve the **biblically unengaged**, the **persecuted church**, and **under-resourced pastors** and **Bible teachers**—from India to Honduras, from Kenya to Moldova, from the UK to Venezuela, and the U.S. and Canada, we ignite passion for God’s Word.

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