



PWOC

Protestant Women of the Chapel

WORKSHOP: What's in a Name?

by Julie Converse

PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

RELEVANCE: God has chosen to reveal Himself to us through a variety of names and titles in Scripture, which give us glimpses into His vast character and help us to understand the depth of His power, His love, and His presence in our lives. This workshop will explore the truth of who God is, through studying some of His names. You will find hope for your everyday challenges, disappointments and heartaches.

POINT 1: GOD NAMES HIMSELF

Today, we will look at the name that God calls Himself, mentioned 6,823 times in the Old Testament. It is the name that God said, "This is my eternal name, my name to remember for all generations" Exodus 3:15b.

Exodus 3:1-17 (NLT): Moses and the Burning Bush

3 One day Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. He led the flock far into the wilderness and came to Sinai, the mountain of God. **2** There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush. Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was engulfed in flames, it didn't burn up. **3** "This is amazing," Moses said to himself. "Why isn't that bush burning up? I must go see it."

4 When the LORD saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

"Here I am!" Moses replied.

5 "Do not come any closer," the LORD warned. "Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground. **6** I am the God of your father^[c]—the God of Abraham, the

God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ Then the LORD told him, “I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land. It is a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live. ⁹ Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them. ¹⁰ Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt.”

¹¹ But Moses protested to God, “Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?”

¹² God answered, “I will be with you. And this is your sign that I am the one who has sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God at this very mountain.”

¹³ But Moses protested, “If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ they will ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what should I tell them?”

¹⁴ God replied to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.^[a] Say this to the people of Israel: I AM has sent me to you.” ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel: Yahweh,^[b] the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.

This is my eternal name, my name to remember for all generations.

¹⁶ “Now go and call together all the elders of Israel. Tell them, ‘Yahweh, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—has appeared to me. He told me, ‘I have been watching closely, and I see how the Egyptians are treating you. ¹⁷ I have promised to rescue you from your oppression in Egypt. I will lead you to a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live.’”

- a. 3:14 Or *I WILL BE WHAT I WILL BE*.
- b. 3:15 *Yahweh* (also in 3:16) is a transliteration of the proper name *YHWH* that is sometimes rendered “Jehovah”; in this translation it is usually rendered “the LORD” (note the use of small capitals).

- **What is the eternal name of God?** (vv. 14-15)
- **What were the circumstances surrounding the giving of His name?**





The Jews use "Adonai" (Lord, or "master," used of an earthly master) so as not to take His name in vain. Vowels were pronounced in spoken Hebrew but not recorded in the written language. Since the Jews refused to *speak* the sacred name of God, recorded as YHWH or JHVH (transliterations of Hebrew into English), the actual pronunciation of the Name was lost.

Yahweh=Jehovah=LORD=I AM=I AM WHO I AM

Adonai=Lord

- **Why do you think God chose that time and place to reveal His name to Moses and the Hebrew people who had been in slavery and bondage for 400 years?**
- **Why might knowing this Name of God be important *to you* and make a difference in *your* life?**

Remember the Name of your God – YAHWEH. The God who is ever present, all sufficient, mighty and strong. He is the One who remembers His promises and has the power to keep them. He is the One who told Moses in Exodus 3:

¹⁶ "Now go and call together all the elders of Israel. Tell them, 'Yahweh, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—has appeared to me. He told me, 'I have been watching closely, and I see how the Egyptians are treating you. ¹⁷ I have promised to rescue you from your oppression in Egypt. I will lead you to a land flowing with milk and honey...'"



ACTIVITY 1: DEEP WATERS

Read the passage below that uses the name Yahweh ("LORD"). Personalize it. Then read it out loud, adding your name, and substituting your words for the underlined words. If you'd like to take turns reading with a partner (after you've both personalized the passage) that would be a great use of your time. If your answers are too personal and you'd rather work alone, that is fine too. If you do decide to read with a partner, consider trading papers so you can read your partner's page to her and visa-versa, which can be a powerful experience.

Isaiah 43:1-3a (NLT)

43 *But now, O Jacob (your name), listen to the **LORD** who created you, O Israel (your name), the one who formed you says, "Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you, I have called you by name; you are mine.*

² *When you go through deep waters, _____
I will be with you.* **What represents "deep waters" in your life?**

*When you go through rivers of difficulty, _____
you will not drown.* **What represents "rivers of difficulty" in your life?**

*When you walk through the fire of oppression, _____
you will not be burned up;* **What represents "fire of oppression" in your life?**

the flames will not consume you.
³ *For **I am the LORD**, your God, _____
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.* **Are you willing to surrender these areas and acknowledge Yahweh- I AM- as sovereign?**

POINT 2: GOD SEES AND HEARS

Genesis 16:1-4a (notice that this is before God changed Abram's name to "Abraham" and Sarai's name to "Sarah")

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had not been able to bear children for him. But she had an Egyptian servant named Hagar. ² So Sarai said to Abram, "The LORD has prevented me from having children. Go and sleep with my servant. Perhaps I can have children through her." And Abram agreed with Sarai's proposal. ³ So Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian servant and gave her to Abram as a wife. (This happened ten years after Abram had settled in the land of Canaan.) ^{4a} So Abram had sexual relations with Hagar, and she became pregnant.



Genesis 16:4b–6.

^{4b}But when Hagar knew she was pregnant, she began to treat her mistress, Sarai, with contempt. ⁵ Then Sarai said to Abram, "This is all your fault! I put my servant into your arms, but now that she's pregnant she treats me with contempt. The LORD will show who's wrong—you or me!" ⁶ Abram replied, "Look, she is your servant, so deal with her as you see fit." Then Sarai treated Hagar so harshly that she finally ran away.

- **Note:** "treated Hagar harshly" in verse 6 = "mistreated." It is the same Hebrew word used in Exodus 1:11-12 to describe the Egyptians' oppression of the Hebrews.

Genesis 16:7-12

⁷ The angel of the LORD found Hagar beside a spring of water in the wilderness, along the road to Shur. ⁸ The angel said to her, "Hagar, Sarai's servant, where have you come from, and where are you going?"

"I'm running away from my mistress, Sarai," she replied.

⁹ The angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit to her authority." ¹⁰ Then he added, "I will give you more descendants than you can count."

¹¹ And the angel also said, "You are now pregnant and will give birth to a son. You are to name him Ishmael (which means 'God hears'), for the LORD has heard your cry of distress. ¹² This son of yours will be a wild man, as untamed as a wild donkey! He will raise his fist against everyone, and everyone will be against him. Yes, he will live in open hostility against all his relatives."

- **Note:** "the Road to Shur" (v.7) was the road back to Egypt
- **Note:** This is the first use in Scripture of "The Angel of the LORD" (v.7) or "Angel of Yahweh." His appearance is what is known as a *Theophany* – a manifestation of God, tangible to human senses. More specifically, this is possibly a *Christophany* – a preincarnate appearance of Christ. The term "Angel" simply means "messenger." Verse 13 clues us in to the reality that this is no ordinary angel.
- **Note:** God named the boy Ishmael – means "God hears!" Letting Hagar and Sarai and Abram that God knew exactly what had gone on between them! Ishmael became the father of 12 tribes that became the Arabic peoples.



Genesis 16:13-15

¹³ Thereafter, Hagar used another name to refer to the LORD, who had spoken to her. She said, "You are the God who sees me."^[a] She also said, "Have I truly seen the One who sees me?" ¹⁴ So that well was named Beer-lahai-roi (which means "well of the Living One who sees me"). It can still be found between Kadesh and Bered.

¹⁵ So Hagar gave Abram a son, and Abram named him Ishmael. ¹⁶ Abram was eighty-six years old when Ishmael was born.

- **Note:** The Hebrew name is – El-Roi (**El=God and Roi=sees**). Remember that Hagar is Egyptian and yet God saw her and cared for her and gave her a promise and even let her name Him!!

Genesis 21:17-19

¹⁷ But God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, "Hagar, what's wrong? Do not be afraid! God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. ¹⁸ Go to him and comfort him, for I will make a great nation from his descendants." ¹⁹ Then God opened Hagar's eyes, and she saw a well full of water. She quickly filled her water container and gave the boy a drink.

ACTIVITY 2: ENCOURAGEMENT FROM PSALMS

Your workshop leader will hand out a page of verses from Psalms that describe how God sees and hears us. You'll notice that several of the verses contain the word "LORD" in all caps, which signifies the name "Yahweh" or "I AM that I AM," which we studied in our first point. Our activity is simply to cut these verses apart to create flashcard reminders of our God who sees and hears. If you'd like to put them in order, you're welcome to do so.



POINT 3: GOD WITH US

- Sin brought with it darkness and death, sickness and pain, and made this world into a shadow of what God created it to be. The worst consequence of all was broken relationship with God.

Jesus=Joshua=God is salvation

Immanuel/Emmanuel=God is with us

- **Isaiah 7:14** (NLT)¹⁴ All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us').
- **Matthew 1:20-23** ¹⁹ Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.

²⁰ As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. ²¹ And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

²² All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet:

²³ "Look! The virgin will conceive a child!
 She will give birth to a son,
 and they will call him Immanuel,
 which means 'God is with us.'"
- Jesus told His disciples that if they had seen Him, they had seen the Father (John 14:9). While we understand Jesus to be a member of the Trinity, He also was an *exact representation* of God, of Yahweh, of El Roi, of God Almighty in all the fullness of Scripture.
- **Colossians 1:15-16a** ¹⁵ Christ is the visible image ["exact representation"] of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, ¹⁶ for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth.
- **Hebrews 1:3** The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven.



ACTIVITY 3:

Jesus is called Immanuel, which means "God is with us," but how does that play out in everyday life? Discuss the following questions in a group of 3-4 people. You will have the opportunity to share your responses to the whole group.

1. How is God with ME as I go about the business of the day?

2. How is God with ME when I experience heartache, sickness, or loss?

APPLY IT TO LIFE:

God named His Son, Jesus. Yahweh was not content to just see and hear us, He wanted to be with us by our side. So, He sent Jesus, who became human and made His home among us (John 1:14). He is Immanuel, "God with us," He knows how you feel, what you think, and what your struggles are.

- **Hebrews 4:15-16** ¹⁵This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. ¹⁶So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

Take the next few minutes to write out a prayer on the next page, thanking Jesus for being right with you in the midst of whatever circumstances you are in. Ask Him to show you the "well" that you might not be able to see. Remember He sees you, He hears you, He saves you, He knows you, and, best of all, He is right there with you.



MY PRAYER: