PWOC

Protestant Women of the Chapel

-white board, markers
-copies of Psalms verses on cardstock
-scissors, hole punch
-optional clips/rings
-means to play a song

WORKSHOP: What's in a Name?

by Julie Converse

LEADER'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.

CONTEXT: This workshop is appropriate for anyone longing to know more about God and wanting to better understand how God's attributes make a difference in their life. It would be appropriate for workshops, care groups, devotions, retreats or leadership training. Any portion can be used separately or expanded upon according to the time allowed.

TIME: 70 minutes

HOOK YOUR AUDIENCE: (5 minutes)

What do you think? Is it possible to really know our God? How are we to know what is true about this One we call Creator, Father, Savior and Lord? There are so many voices out there telling us who God is and who He is not. God has chosen to reveal Himself to us. How does the truth of who God is make a difference in how we live our lives and face everyday challenges, disappointments and heartaches? This is not an exhaustive study of God. I pray this workshop will put a fresh desire in your heart to grow in your knowledge of God and learn to trust Him and enjoy your relationship with Him more every day. My prayer for each of us today is that we will be women who know our God and make Him known! Let's Pray

(Ask the ladies to stand and pair up. Tell them they have 30 seconds to introduce themselves to each other. Time 15 seconds for the first one and then tell them to switch for the other one to introduce herself. After partners have finished their introductions, ask them to share out.)

What information (general categories) did you learn about each other? *(Record their responses on a whiteboard or chart paper.)* Take a look at our list- what information did you give first? *(Most likely it was their name.)* Do you share intimate details of your struggles the first time you meet someone new?

MAKE YOUR POINT 1: **GOD NAMES HIMSELF** (15 minutes)

Your name is very important. Many cultures place great importance on naming a child. Many have elaborate ceremonies at the time of naming a child. Being given a name confirms that society recognizes that child's individual existence and personhood and acknowledges its responsibility to that child. The name gives the person an identity by which s/he is to be known.

God's names are one of the ways that we can get to know Him. They show us His character and give us insight into what is important to Him and how He wants to be in a relationship with us. The greatest journey we have in this life, is the one where we get to know our God. How can we come to Him if we are not sure He even wants us to, or if He is safe? How can we depend on Him if we are not sure He is even there or that He even cares? I pray you determine today to continue to seek Him and know Him for who He really is and not just some imagined God you think He is or that someone else told you He was.

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. Let's read the passage from Exodus 3 when God "introduces Himself" to Moses. *(Ask volunteers to read portions of the passage below.)*

> **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!"

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"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).

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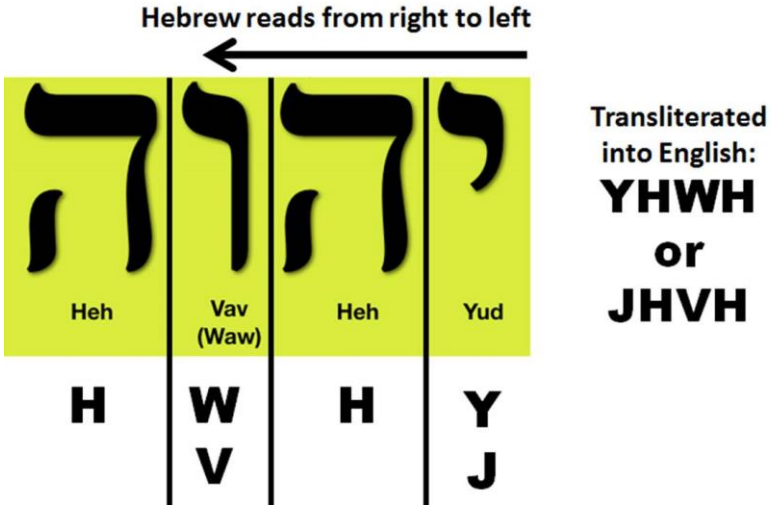
(Allow your participants to answer:)

- **What is the eternal name of God?** (vv. 14-15) *(I AM WHO I AM, Yahweh).*

- **What were the circumstances surrounding the giving of His name?** *(God had just called Moses to go back to Egypt to rescue the Hebrews from Pharaoh…)*



This is the name God gives to Himself. His name is so sacred, when the Jews are reading the Scriptures, they will not pronounce this name. Instead they will say "Adonai" (Lord, or "master," used of an earthly master) so as not to take His name in vain. The original text of the Old Testament, written in Hebrew, did not include vowel markings. 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. Vowels were later added as a "best guess" of what the original vowels would have been, to form the names "Yahweh" or "Jehovah," in English, both of which originate from this same Hebrew Name. In most Bibles, in the Old Testament, this Name is printed as LORD, in all capital letters while Adonai is printed with a capital "L" and lowercase "o-r-d."

The first time God chose to use His "eternal Name" was in Genesis 2:4 where He combined His Name with the name *Elohim*, which is a generic term for a deity, that means "the strong one" or "mighty leader," declaring Himself as the strong, mighty, active, self-existent God. Here is Exodus 3, Yahweh is connected with the verb "to be" in order to let us know He is the ever-present, all-sufficient, always-existent, unparalleled, "I AM" or "I AM WHO I AM." He alone is God – the "LORD GOD."

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Let's go back to the story of Moses:

- **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?** *(Though you could easily answer this FOR your participants, allow them to contribute to a discussion. Help them to wrestle through the timing and the circumstances. If you are not getting many responses, give them some starter thoughts or questions like: Why after 400 years? What was ahead of them? Do you think the Israelites perceived themselves as "easy to rescue?" Tell me more… Let your participants lead this discussion as much as possible.)*

- **Why might knowing this Name of God be important *to you* and make a difference in *your* life?** *(Again, let your participants contribute the bulk of the discussion. The more interaction they have, the more they will remember this workshop. Give prompts if needed: Can we be in bondage…what might that look like? The people lived in a desert…what would a "desert season" look like in our lives? Could the Israelites fight their own battle to free themselves? Think about that in terms of 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…"

This is your God too. He is watching closely and will rescue you. You can trust Him.

ENGAGE YOUR LEARNERS 1: **DEEP WATERS** (5 minutes)

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.

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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,* **Are you willing to surrender these areas and**
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. **acknowledge Yahweh- I AM- as sovereign?**

MAKE YOUR POINT 2: GOD SEES AND HEARS (15 minutes)

Has there been a time in your life when you felt invisible? Or been abused, mistreated, misunderstood, taken for granted, made to feel worthless? Maybe a time you did what you were told, only to get in trouble for doing that very thing? Not much has changed in 4,000 yrs. Let's look at **Genesis 16** and see what went on in the lives of three important people.

1. Will someone please read verses 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.

Let's go over some of the facts:

- What do we learn about Hagar?
- What do we learn about Sarai?
- What do we learn about Abram?

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2. Will someone please read verses 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.

Let's go over some of the facts:

- What happened when Hagar knew she was pregnant?
- How did Sarai respond?
  - **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.
- How did Abram respond?
- What did Hagar do?
- How do you think Hagar was feeling at this point?

3. Will someone please read verses 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."

Let's go over some of the facts:

- Who found Hagar beside the spring?
  - **Note**: "the Road to Shur" (v.7) was the road back to Egypt

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- **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.

- What did the Angel tell Hagar to do?
- What was the Angel's promise?
  - **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.

4. Will someone please read verses 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.

Let's look at some of the facts:

- What did Hagar name the LORD?
  - **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!!
- What did the well's name mean?
- How old was Abram when Ishmael was born?

This account from Genesis 16 was not the only time God met Hagar in the wilderness. In **Genesis 21:8-21**, we see 100-year-old Abraham and 90-year-old Sarah with their new son Isaac that God had promised them many years earlier. Ishmael is now 14 years old and was making fun of Isaac; Sarah caught him. So, she went to Abraham and again demanded that Hagar and Ishmael be sent away. We find the familiar scene of Hagar in the wilderness, this time with teenaged Ishmael. They are out of food, water and hope. She is just waiting for herself and Ishmael to die. Again, in verse 17, the Angel of the LORD comes to her aid.

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> **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."

God promised Hagar that Ishmael would grow up and become the father of a great nation. He then showed her a well, where they could get water, which spared their lives.

> **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.

He opened her eyes to see what was there. God does the same for us. He will open our eyes to the solution that we could not have seen on our own. Always trust Yahweh to provide for you because He sees you and hears you and is right there with you.

ENGAGE YOUR LEARNERS 2: **ENCOURAGEMENT FROM PSALMS** (5 minutes)

Note to Trainer: In the back of your Leader's Guide, you will find a grid of twelve verses from the Psalms that describe how God sees and hears us. This page does not appear in the Participant's Guide and will need to be copied (preferably on cardstock) ahead of time. This is a simple activity that will give your participants a break, which will help them be better able to absorb the information of Point 3, but will also give them a tool to take home with them to reinforce Point 2. You will need to provide scissors for your participants to cut the verses apart, and you may also want to provide a hole punch and rings for the verses to be held together- or another option would be a clip of some sort, like a small clothespin (one for each participant).

I have some verses for you 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.

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MAKE YOUR POINT 3: **GOD WITH US** (10 minutes)

So far, we have learned about Yahweh, or the Great I Am- our strong, active, self-existent God, who watched over the nation of Israel. Next, we encountered El Roi, the God who Sees, who met the servant, Hagar, and her son, Ishmael, in the wilderness, to provide comfort, direction and life-giving water. He heard their cries and met them in their crisis. Now, we meet our precious Savior- Jesus Christ, Immanuel, "God with us."

In Old Testament times, relationship with God was necessarily at a distance. Gone were the days that God came and walked with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:8). The parents of humanity invited sin into this world and with it came separation from our Holy God; holiness and sin cannot coexist. 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.

Yahweh was not at all surprised by this turn of events. He knew Adam and Eve would disobey Him even before He created them, yet He created them anyway, so great is His love for us. Before the dawn of time, God had plans set in motion to send His Son, Jesus, for our rescue. "Jesus" is the New Testament name for Joshua (Jeshua) and it means "God is salvation."

Up until this time, being in right relationship with God depended on the sacrificial system. The punishment for sin was death. Sacrifice provided a life for a life (i.e. a lamb was sacrificed so that my life would be spared) but it was temporary. People kept right on sinning and sacrifices were in continual need. Jesus referred to Himself as "The Lamb of God," which was fitting, as He would become our ultimate Sacrifice. His life would pay for our sins once and for all. He lived a perfect life and then died in our place. Right relationship with God was restored.

Let's read about where the name Immanuel comes from. *(Have volunteers read the following verses.)*

> **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.

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> **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.'"

The Trinity, Father-Son-Holy Spirit, is impossible for us to fully understand. God the Father sent God the Son, yet there is only one true God. 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.

In **Colossians 1:15-16a** we read that:

> **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.

Then in **Hebrews 1:3** we also read:

> **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.

God saw our plight. He saw we were lost in our sin. He did not just see and hear, He did the most outrageous thing ever! He came as God-in-the-flesh to die on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins that we could never pay. This is His gift of grace to us, free for the taking, reconnecting humanity with the Creator- we need only to place our trust in Him. But, of course, the story does not end there. Jesus rose again on the third day, conquering death, hell and the grave. He came for us and He still comes for us. He remains Immanuel, God with us.

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ENGAGE YOUR LEARNERS 3: (5 minutes)

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. *(You may want to record their answers on a white board/chart paper.)*

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: (10 minutes)

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 (NLT) makes it very clear. Please listen as I read these two verses:

> **15** This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. **16** So 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.

As I play a song, please take the next few minutes to write out a prayer, 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.

Note to Trainer: Choose a song that speaks to any element of this workshop- God as the great I AM; the God who sees us; the God who is with us… The song should be conducive to the reflection that you are asking your women to do. You may even choose to use instrumental music if you think it would be easier for your participants to focus on their assignment. Go ahead and take a seat while they are working; this gives them a little more privacy.

(Close in prayer.)

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The LORD says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you." Psalm 32:8	You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand! Psalm 139:5-6	But in my distress I cried out to the LORD; yes, I prayed to my God for help. He heard me from his sanctuary; my cry to him reached his ears. Psalm 18:6
The LORD himself watches over you! The LORD stands beside you as your protective shade. The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon at night. Psalm 121:5-6	In my distress I prayed to the LORD, and the LORD answered me and set me free. The LORD is for me, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me? Psalm 118:5-6	The LORD hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles. The LORD is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed. Psalm 34:17-18
O LORD, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. Psalm 139:1-2	In panic I cried out, "I am cut off from the LORD!" But you heard my cry for mercy and answered my call for help. Psalm 31:22	I waited patiently for the LORD to help me, and he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along. Psalm 40:1-2
You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. You know what I am going to say even before I say it, LORD. Psalm 139:3-4	But you, O LORD, are a shield around me; you are my glory, the one who holds my head high. I cried out to the LORD, and he answered me from his holy mountain. Psalm 3:3-4	Morning, noon, and night I cry out in my distress, and the LORD hears my voice. He ransoms me and keeps me safe from the battle waged against me, though many still oppose me. Psalm 55:16-17

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?**

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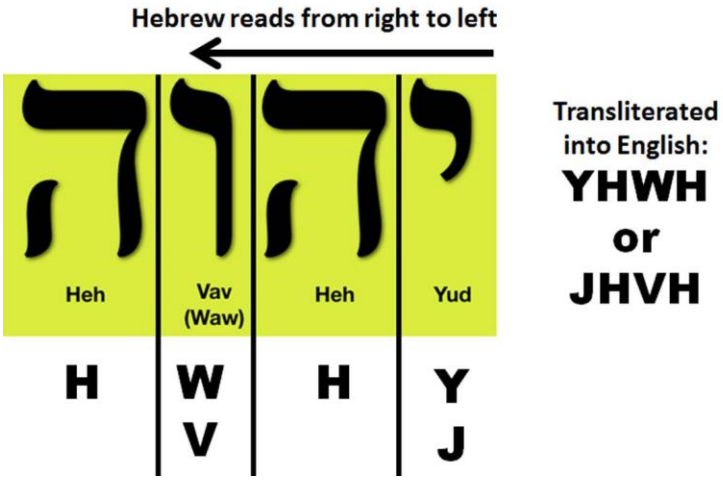

The Jews use "Adonai" (Lord, or "master," used of an earthly master) so as not to take His name in vain. Vowels were pronounced in spoken Hebrew but not recorded in the written language. Since the Jews refused to *speak* the sacred name of God, recorded as YHWH or JHVH (transliterations of Hebrew into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

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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,* **Are you willing to surrender these areas and**
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. **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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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** **15** This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. **16** So 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.

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MY PRAYER: