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My Father's Names Student Guide

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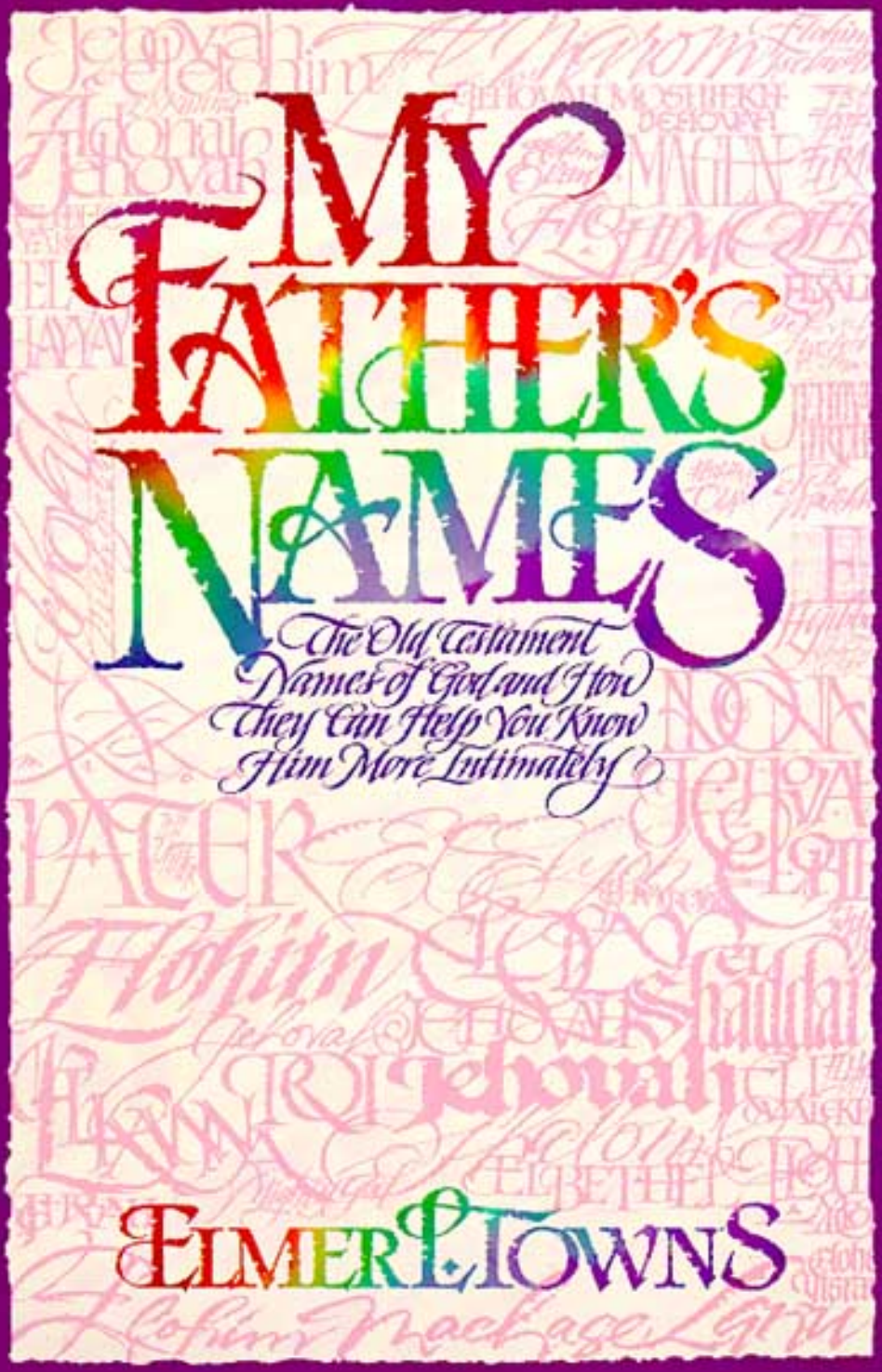
GROUP STUDY GUIDE

A 8- TO 12-WEEK GROUP STUDY TO BE USED WITH THE BOOK OR VIDEO BY ELMER L. TOWNS



Elmer Towns ONLINE LIBRARY

www.elmertowns.com

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HOW TO USE THE GROUP STUDY GUIDE AND REGAL BOOK *MY FATHER'S NAMES*

GROUP STUDY GUIDE
This Group Study Guide is a streamlined and effective tool for leading your small group or Sunday School class through a meaningful study of the Bible course My *Father's Names.*

There are several features related to this Group Study Guide that you will want to especially note. They include the following:

- **Bible commentary-**The Bible commentary that accompanies this study is found in the Regal book, *My Father's Names*, by Elmer L. Towns. Because this Group Study Guide does not include Bible commentary, it is -Imperative that each leader/teacher secures a copy of the Regal book in order to teach this course.

- **Look for the** -Whenever directions are given to move the larger group into several small groups, special directives are given. These directives will assist you in adapting this phase of the study for a small group study of less than eight members. The serves as a "sign post" for these directives.

- **Supplement materials** - These materials will help you lead an effective Bible study and enhance group members' personal research and study of God's Word. Permission is granted to reproduce the following materials for group Bible study use only.

1. *Lesson Handout,* to be used during the study, is provided for each member of the group. It serves as a tool for Bible research and discussion.

2. *Lesson Outline* is provided for each member of the study group. Your Bible students may take notes of the Bible lesson on the Lesson Outline as the lesson is presented. Also included on this handout is a 'Further Application and Study' section. This section provides: Further guidelines on how learners may apply the lesson to their lives during the week; and directives for further Bible study and research regarding the lesson. *3. Resource Material* is available for each learner that will enhance his or her Bible knowledge. These materials will be used by Bible students during the study as well in their personal study of the Bible during the week.

REGAL BOOK

My Father's Names is another of the many popular books written by Dr. Elmer L. Towns, vice president and dean of the School of Religion at Liberty Baptist College in Lynchburg, Virginia. Dr. Towns also travels widely conducting conferences for pastors and other groups. He brings to his writings a wealth of experience and knowledge in both church life and practical theology.

The Regal book is so vital to the study of God's names that you should see that each of your group members has a personal copy. Only then will he or she receive the full advantage of this study. Several ways to make the Regal book available to members include: (1) Members buy personal copies; (2) church supplies copies; and (3) church and individuals share costs.

Here are several ways you and your group members can use Dr. Towns' book in your study of *My Father's Names:*

- **Prestudy sharing**-You can take a few minutes at the beginning of your Bible study to allow your learners to share the insights they received from reading the text during the previous week.

- **Midweek studies**-Consider getting together with your Bible study group in between studies just to reflect on personal insights from the Regal book chapters.

- **During the study use**-Reading one of the author's pertinent paragraphs aloud during the study may add some input to the group discussion.

- **Build a Bible study library**-Every Regal book can become a valuable addition to a growing personal library for your members. They will enjoy having *My Father's Names* in their personal library for review and for lending to friends.

The objective of Gospel Light's Bible study materials for adults is to help the leader and learners "in all things grow up into Christ" (Eph. 4:15, *NIV).* As you and your group members faithfully read and discuss the Regal book commentary, you will find that the Regal book is a practical tool designed to help the entire group accomplish this goal.

MY FATHER'S NAMES COURSE OVERVIEW

Are you among those who have questioned the reason why God has so many names, and the purposes they serve? Because so many of God's names are based in the writings of the Old Testament, you may have wondered if their meanings are relevant today. Or perhaps you feel that an understanding of His names-God, Jesus Christ and Lord are sufficient to meet today's challenges.

In most churches the study of God's names has been limited to the 10 most common names, such as *Elohim, Jehovah, El Shaddai,* etc. As a result most believers are in the dark when it comes to an understanding of God's many other names.

This course, *My Father's Names,* will not only enhance every participant's knowledge of God, it will also result in a deepening of your personal relationships with Him. As together you apply the spiritual truths of God's names to your everyday challenges, you will begin to experience: Victories where you faced hopelessness; security in Christ as you live in a world that is constantly changing; and God's peace as you more fully understand the mighty God you serve.

The following overview provides a brief synopsis of each of the 12 studies in the course, *My Father's Names.* This overview applies to the Study Plans and video study (see back pages), both of which are designed for use with the Regal book, *My Father's Names.*

Study 1, **Hallowed Be Thy Names.** In this study learners discover how God reveals Himself in His names and how this knowledge can lead to a deeper relationship with Him.

Study 2, **The** LORD **Is My Shepherd:** *Jehovah Roi,* **the Caring Name of God.** Members consider the eight names of God as illustrated in Psalm 23. They are then challenged to look to God to meet their needs and allow God to use them to meet the needs of others.

Study 3, **Almighty God:** *El Shaddai,* **the God Who Supplies My Needs.** The compassionate concern of God as reflected in the name El Shaddai is the focus of this study. Bible students discover how God will help in solving their personal problems.

Study 4, **Most High God:** *El Elyon,* **Possessor of Heaven and Earth.** Members examine the implications of the name of God as El Elyon. And they are encouraged to submit their lives and assets to His ownership.

Study 5, **The Everlasting God:** *El Olam* **and the Secret Name of God.** Learners discuss the mystery surrounding the eternal God and then consider how they may apply biblical principles relating to God as El Olam to their lives.

Study 6, **Almighty God:** *El Gibbor* **and the Strong Names of God.** Several names of God, which reveal His strength, are the focus of this study. Members are challenged to identify an area in their lives where they need to yield to God's protective power.

Study 7, **King.-** *Jehovah Melek,* **the Throne Name of God.** Bible students acquire a greater understanding of the authority and rule of God as their King. And they are encouraged to yield

all areas of their lives to God and His will, just as subjects would yield to the desires of their king.

Study 8, **The** LORD **of Hosts:** *Jehovah Sabaoth,* **the Militant Name of God.** In this study learners explore the mystery of Jehovah Sabaoth and the angels of God. They are challenged to pinpoint an area in their lives where they need God's intervention in order to realize victory.

Study 9, **The Lord/Master: Adonai, the Headship Name of God.** The master/slave relationship that we have with God is the theme of this study. Members discuss how they may improve this relationship, and they decide on one step they may take to bring this improvement about.

Study 10, **God:** *Elohim,* **the Strong Creator.** In this study Bible students gain a fuller understanding of the name of God, Elohim. They will be given on opportunity to focus on a situation or need in their lives where they need to apply the truth of this name.

Study 11, **LORD:** *Jehovah,* **the Self-existent God.** Learners research the important attributes associated with the name of God, Jehovah. They then discuss how they may get to know God in a personal way so that they may benefit from this knowledge.

Study 12, **The Father-. Pater, the Intimate Name for God.** A fitting climax to this course is the study of God's name, Father. Members discover the intimate relationship they may have with God as Father and how this knowledge can have a positive affect on their relationship with their own fathers or/and on their roles as fathers.

ADAPTING THIS COURSE FOR FEWER STUDIES

Perhaps your time schedule does not allow for 12 separate studies of *My Father's Names.* This series, using the Study Plans or video tapes, can be easily adapted to fit a schedule of as few as eight studies. Consider the following suggestions for shortening the length of this course:

1. Combine complementary studies: Each of the following combinations will reduce the study count by one. When combining studies, choose a prevailing theme and then support that theme with input from the complementary studies:

- Combine Studies 1 and 10 that focus on reasons for studying the names of God, His three primary names and a further study of one of the primary names, *Elohim,* which implies the Trinity.

- Combine Studies 3 and 9 that deal with the names: Almighty God, who as *El Shaddai* supplies all our needs; and Master, who as *Adonai* provides all that we need to fulfill His will for our lives.

- Combine Studies 6 and 8 that focus on *El Gibbor,* the strong names of God and *Jehovah Sabaoth,* the militant name of God.

- Combine Studies 7 and 12 that explore God's throne name, King, and His intimate name, Father, as well as the beautiful relationship we have with Him in these seemingly contradictory roles.

2. **Create your own "highlights" course:** Carefully read the Goals from each study in this Group Study Guide. Select only those studies that you feel are most pertinent to your Bible study group at this time.

ADAPTING THIS COURSE FOR DISCUSSION AND RESEARCH GROUPS

If your group meets in the church sanctuary or small chapel with pews for seating accommodations, it is next to impossible to move your members into groups of four to six as suggested in many of the study plans. But before you eliminate discussion groups altogether, follow this plan:

Form groups of two to four by asking learners seated in one pew to turn around and form a group with those seated behind them. Or you could limit groups to a one-on-one discussion situation.

By implementing these suggestions, you will discover that even small group-discussion will make meaningful contributions to the success of the group study. Group discussion can work for you!

STUDY 1

Hallowed Be Thy Names

A B C Plan for the Study

Study Verse:

“And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I *am* the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect." Genesis 17:1

Study Goals:

- Gain an understanding of how God reveals Himself in His names;
- Discuss how a better understanding of God's names can lead to a deeper relationship with Him.

Materials Needed:

- Copies of the Regal book, *My Father's Names*, by Elmer L. Towns, for group members to purchase;
- One copy of the Study 1 Lesson Outline for each group member;
- One copy of the Studies 1-12 Resources titled 'My Father's Names Chart" and 'Book of Psalms Reading Guide" for each group member (Make extra copies of the chart for recording information regarding the names of God that will be considered in succeeding studies.);
- Optional: Chalkboard or overhead projector and transparencies;
- Optional: Transparencies of the Lesson Outline and 'My Father's Names Chart."

Advance Preparations:

- In order to effectively lead/teach this series, it is important that you carefully read the article, "How to Use the Group Study Guide and Regal Book-My *Father's Names,'* that appears in the opening pages of this guide.
- Encourage learners to read the Introduction and chapter 1 of the Regal book prior to Study 1;

- Write various names of God on construction paper and display appropriately at the front of the room. Leave these names up throughout the series or replace them from time to time with new names. Refer to Appendix A in the Regal book for names you may wish to consider;

- For additional methods and activities to incorporate in this Study Plan, refer to the Appendix in this Group Study Guide.

APPROACH

- Members introduce themselves to one another (see "How to Promote Fellowship in Your Group,' found in the back pages of this Group Study Guide for activities to enhance group fellowship).

- Learners also share childhood nicknames and reasons why they were called by these nicknames.

- Say, *We will be studying the various names of God in this series. Just as one's nickname suggests something about the behavior and character of a person, so God's other names reveal much about His character and attributes.*

BIBLE EXPLORATION
Step 1

- Say, *Because Moslems believe that it is wrong to make an image of a created being, they use words and letters of their alphabet in their art. Some of their most beautiful art consist of religious mottoes or collections of the names they ascribe to God. Add, Notice the names of God displayed around the room. As we study His names, we will change or add to the display from week to week.*

- Distribute a Lesson Outline to everyone and share that it is designed for note-taking throughout the study. (Optional: Do the same on the chalkboard or Lesson Outline transparency.) Mention that outlines will be made available in each succeeding study.

- Share the following lesson material and encourage group participation:

a. Mention Elmer L. Towns' experience at Mount Rushmore National Monument (see chapter 1 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names).* Ask members to share similar experiences of gradual enlightenment.

b. Volunteer reads aloud 1 Corinthians 13:12. What can we learn from this verse?

c. There are over 80 names and titles for God in the Old Testament. Why do you think God has so many names?

d. Share concerning the nature of light. Say, *Just as white light is made of different rays or colors, so God's different attributes are illuminated by His different names.*

Step 2

Discussion-Share the following lesson material and ask the listed questions (refer to chapter 1 of the Regal book for added lesson material)-.

- What names or titles was David known by and what did they reveal about him? (see 1 Sam. 16:1,11,18,19; 2 Sam. 23:1; 1 Chron. 11:1-3; 17:10-17; Ps. 72:20).

- Why should we study the various names of God?

- Discuss how Abraham's relationship with God was affected by a revelation of God's names (see Gen. 13:4; 14:18,19; 15:2; 17:1,2; 21:33; 22:14).

- What names do we use today to describe specific relationships in life?

- How can a better understanding of God's names lead to a deeper relationship with Him?

- In what ways did the Jews use God's name throughout history? (As the basis of their theology of God-see Exod. 3:15; 23:13; to represent the very presence of God-see 25:8-22; Deut. 12:5; as part of a greeting of blessing-see Ruth 2:4; by using only the name Jehovah to discourage the practice of idolatry; to honor God's name by refusing to pronounce it, except on special occasions by the priests; as part of a religious formula in daily correspondence; and by writing it according to a prescribed ritual.)

- Discuss the practices the Jews observed in writing the name *Jehovah.*

- Discuss the new name Jesus introduced for the name of the LORD God (see Luke 11: 1-4). What new relationship did this new name reveal?

Step 3

Research

If your group is composed of less than eight members, work together as one group to complete the following assignment:

- Move learners into three groups and appoint group leaders. Assign to each group one of the three primary names for God (see chapter 1 of the Regal book under the heading 'The Three Primary Names of God').

- Members read the section in chapter 1 of the Regal book that relates to the name assigned to their respective group, and write a brief summary on their outlines.

- Re-gather into larger group and distribute the Studies 1-12 Resource titled 'My Father's Names Chart" to learners. Everyone is to use the chart throughout this 12-week study to record of the names of God and other information relating to God's names. (Optional: Do the same on the chalkboard or chart transparency.) Say, *Additional pages of the chart will be made available to you in each succeeding study.*

- Receive reports from group leaders and jot down main points on board.

Step 4

Discussion-Include the following questions and lesson material (see chapter 1 of the Regal book under the heading "Compound Names for God" for added lesson material):

- Say, Elmer L. *Towns writes in chapter 1 of the Regal book that the reason why the primary names of God are often joined together, or compounded, is to communicate further insight into the person of God and how He cares for His people.*

- How is the name LORD God used in Scripture? (To show the relationship of God to people in Creation-see Gen. 2:7-15; as the moral authority over people-see w. 16,17; as the controller of earthly relationships-see w. 18-24; as the Redeemer of humankind-see 3:8-15,21.)

- What is indicated in the use of the name Lord God? (While God is still Creator, this name indicates that He is Master of His people, as well.)

STUDY 2

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

Jehovah Roi

The Caring Name of God

A B C Plan for the Study

Study Verse:
"The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want. " Psalm 23:1

Study Goals:
Gain a deeper understanding of eight names of God as illustrated in Psalm 23;

- Look to God to meet your needs, and allow Him to use you to meet the needs of others.

Materials Needed:

- At least one copy of the Regal book, *My Father's Names*, by Elmer L. Towns;
- One copy of the Study 2 Lesson Outline for each group member;
- One copy of the Study 2 handout for each group member;
- A prism, glass or crystal from a chandelier and a flashlight for use in the Approach;
- Optional: Chalkboard or overhead projector and transparency;
- Optional: Transparency of the Lesson Outline.

Advance Preparations:

In order to effectively lead/teach this study, it is important that you carefully read the article, "How to Use the Group Study Guide and Regal Book-*My Father's Names,"* that appears in the opening pages of this guide.

To assist in facilitating the personal application of today's study (see Study Goals), set up a browsing table of books dealing with shepherding or meeting the needs of others. If your church has a library, collect the books dealing with this subject and make

arrangements so group members may check out books following the study. Or secure books on consignment from your local Christian bookstore, and give learners an opportunity to purchase the books.

APPROACH

- Members examine the books on the browsing table as they arrive. Explain that the books may be checked out or purchased.

- Briefly share concerning the nature of white light that Elmer L. Towns writes about in chapter 1 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names.* Next, shine a flashlight through a prism, which separates the light into various colors.

- Say, *In our study we will separate the various aspects of the name of God- "Jehovah Roi" as we consider how each aspect relates to a particular human need.*

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Step 1

Discussion-Encourage group participation and ask the listed questions. Also share the following lessons (refer to chapter 2 of the Regal book for added lesson material):

- Learners open their Bibles to Psalm 23. A volunteer reads aloud this familiar passage.

- How does the Twenty-third Psalm refute a common misconception about the character of God in the Old Testament?

- Why does God compare believers to sheep in need of a shepherd? (Both are prone to wander, cannot protect themselves, need care, are ignorant of danger, difficult to train.)

Step 2

Research and Discussion

If your group is composed of less than eight members, work together as one group to complete the following assignment:

- Distribute a Study 2 Lesson Outline to everyone.

- Move members into small groups of four to six members and appoint group leaders. Assign one or two points of the outline to each group.

- Learners research the Scripture references listed with their assigned area(s) on the outline and work with group members to complete the assignments listed under A and B. Stress that the assignment focuses on areas of need in people's lives *today*. (Members may use the reverse side of their outlines for additional writing space.)

- Re-gather into the larger group and receive feedback from each group leader. As time allows, include the following lessons and suggested questions in the discussion:

The LORD My Shepherd-*Jehovah Roi*
Psalm 23:1

- How does God's name of Shepherd emphasize His nature as a protector? (Shepherds lead, feed and protect the flock. Christ gives life abundantly to His sheep and leads them in paths of righteousness away from sin; see John 10:4, 10, 11; 15:2; Eph. 6:11-18; 1 John 1:7.)

- God often meets our need for protection by using other people to minister to us (see John 21:17; Eph. 4:11-13; 1 Pet. 5:1-4).

The LORD Shall Provide-*Jehovah-jireh* **Psalm 23:2; Genesis 22:14**

- God provides for our physical needs by intervening directly in answer to prayer-see Matt. 7:7-11: 21:22; through fellow believers-see Phil. 4:18,19; and often as we apply biblical principles to our lives-see Matt. 6:25-33.

- Share the various translations of Genesis 22:8.

The LORD [Our] *Peace-Jehovah Shalom* **Psalm 23:3; Judges 6:23**

- How can unsettled emotions interfere with our progress in the Christian life? (Discouragement may cause us to quit; fear may hinder our trusting God; and stress may result in unwise decisions.)

The LORD [Our] Healer-*Jehovah Rophe*

Psalm 23:3; Exodus 15:26

How does a person's life-style affect his or her life span?

- Ways Christians may experience God's corrective healing include: Physical healing, forgiveness, cleansing, restored relationships, etc.)

The LORD Our Righteousness-*Jehovah Tsidkenu*
Psalm 23:3; Jeremiah 23:6

- Author Towns writes in chapter 2 of the Regal book, 'Sin is many things, among them seeking our own way.' What are some of the ways we 'seek our own way?'

- When is Jehovah Tsidkenu a reality in our experience? (As we are justified-declared righteous by God at conversion, and as we allow God to lead us into righteousness; see Ps. 23:3; Rom. 5:1; 1 Cor. 1:30.)

The LORD My Banner-*Jebovah Nissi*
Psalm 23:4; Exodus 17:15

- How can understanding God as our 'banner" help us in our fears? (the banner indicates His presence; other Christians who rally to the banner encourage us and offer counsel, reminding us of resources such as prayer and the Word.)

- Why would Christians use this militaristic name of God today? (We are engaged in spiritual warfare with the flesh and spiritual powers; see Gal. 5: 1 7,24; Eph. 6:12.)

The LORD Is There-*Jehovah Shammah*
Psalm 23:4; Ezekiel 48:35

- Author Towns writes in chapter 2 of the Regal book, “One of our greatest gifts, along with salvation, is the presence of God in our lives." How does Jehovah Shammah impact our relationship with God? (God is our Friend; fellowship with Him and other believers; comfort and encouragement that we receive from God and from other believers; see John 15:15; 17:20,21; 1 John 1:7; Rev. 3:20.)

- How is the believer comforted by the rod and staff of the Good Shepherd? (see Ps. 110:2-refers to the gospel; Heb. 12:5-11; 1 Pet. 2:25; Matt. 18:11-14).

The LORD that Sanctifies You-*Jehovah Mekaddishkhem* **Psalm 23:5; Exodus 31:13**

- Why do we need the Jehovah Mekaddishkhem aspect of God? (see Heb. 12:14, *New American Standard Bible; 1* Pet. 1: 1,2; 1 John 2:1,2; 3:2).

- Discuss the use of oil with sheep and how it is a symbol of the Holy Spirit (see 1 Sam. 16:13; John 14:16,17; Acts 10:38; Eph. 3:16; Titus 3:5; Jas. 5:14).

CONCLUSION

- To whom should believers turn for shepherding today? Jesus the Good Shepherd; pastors who are shepherds; and fellow believers who have a shepherding ministry.)

- How may believers shepherd one another in the church? (By example; counsel and discipleship; instruction; problem-solving; admonition and warning.)

- Distribute the Study 2 handout titled "All in a Name" to each learner. Allow several minutes for members to complete the A and B assignments.

- Invite learners to sing together one of the following hymns that acknowledges God as their Shepherd: “Savior, Like a Shepherd," "Shepherd of Love." Or merely read the words to the hymn.

- Volunteers offer sentence prayers of thanksgiving for Christ as their Good Shepherd.

Assignments:

Members prepare for the next study by reading chapter 3 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names.* Invite them to think of times when they recognized the intervention of God in their lives, and come prepared to share one such instance at the next study.

STUDY 3

ALMIGHTY GOD

El Shaddai

The God Who Supplies My Needs

A B C Plan for the Study

Study Verse:

"Even by the God of thy father, who shall help thee; and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings." Genesis 49:25

Study Goals:

- Gain a deeper appreciation of the compassionate concern of God as reflected in the name El *Shaddai;*
- Discuss biblical principles relating to the character of El Shaddai that will help in solving personal problems.

Materials Needed:

- A tape, record or compact disc of the vocal rendition of the gospel song 'El Shaddai' and other songs dealing with the names of God;
- Optional: Chalkboard or overhead projector and transparency,
- Optional: Transparency of the Lesson Outline.

Advance Preparation:

- Contact the person who will be sharing in Optional Step 4 of the Bible Exploration.

APPROACH

- As group members arrive, play recorded music dealing with God's names as background music.

- Volunteers share concerning a time when they sensed the intervention of God in their lives.

- Say, *Your testimonies give evidence of God's concern and care. Today we will consider the name of God that demonstrates this aspect of His character*

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Step 1

Discussion-Ask the listed questions and share the following lessons (see chapter 3 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names*, for added lesson material):

- Distribute a Study 3 Lesson Outline to everyone and encourage note-taking. Optional: Do the same on the board or overhead transparency.

- What does the name El Shaddai tell us about God? (Blending of strength and tenderness.)

- Explain the compound name of Almighty God-El and Shaddai or *shad* (see Gen. 17:l; 49:25; Job 3:12; Ps. 22:9).

- Elmer L. Towns writes in chapter 3 of the Regal book, 'In love He [the Almighty] will soothe our wounds, but also in love He may allow us to be wounded ff necessary for our discipline.' How did the Almighty soothe Abraham's wounds? (In giving him a son; see Gen. 15:3-5; 21:1-5.)

- Do you agree with author Towns' inference that Job's suffering was part of the discipline (strength) of the Almighty? Why or why not?

- How is the name Almighty used in the Revelation? (As rewarding believers for faithfulness and punishing sin through the judgments; see Rev. 11:15-18.)

- How does the name El Shaddai, the Almighty God, minister to our problems today.? (In danger or facing problems, we can call on God's power. In trials, we can draw on His strength and understanding, refer to Isa. 41:10; Jas. 1:2; 1 Pet. 5:7.)

- Share the following three things to remember about problems: (1) We cannot run from them; (2) we cannot prevent them from coming; and (3) we cannot solve all of them.

Step 2

Lecture

- As an introduction to the discussion in Step 3, briefly present the six guidelines (principles) relating to the character of El Shaddai that help believers face and overcome problems (see chapter 3 of the Regal book under the heading "Application').

- Share how one or more of these guidelines or principles helped you resolve a problem you faced in the last year.

Step 3

Discussion

- Author Towns writes in chapter 3 of the Regal book, 'Many of our problems come because of sin in our lives." What kind of major problems do people encounter today that may be identified as direct consequences of a sinful life-style? (Answers may include: AIDS acquired as the result of drug use or homosexual activity; a divorce-the result of marital unfaithfulness; health problems resulting from alcohol and drug abuse; etc.)

- How are other people impacted by these sinful life-styles? (Answers may include: Emotional scarring of physical and sexual abuse victims; impact of divorce on children; death and injury caused by a drunk driver; etc.)

- How should the Christian respond to sin? (Understand the nature of sin-see 2 Cor. 2:1 1; 1 Pet. 5:8; practice personal separation from sin-see Isa. 52:11; 2 Cor. 6:16-18; realize God will judge sin-see Eccl. 12:14; recognize that every problem is not necessarily the result of one's personal sin-see John 9:1-3; and practice personal holiness as one depends on the strengthening of God's Spirit-see Eph. 3:14-17; Phil. 3:8,9; 1 Pet. 1:13-15.)

- Author Towns writes, "God is not just a powerful Creator who is far removed from believers. He is as dose as a mother or a shepherd." How does God respond as a parent to us? (Demonstrates love by helping; being present when needed; calling to obedience; disciplining when required; offering guidance; affirming and rewarding; blessing His children; etc.)

- If we consider El Shaddai as a model for parenting, how should that affect the way we parent our own children?

- How should we respond to God as our heavenly parent? (Follow His directions-see Eph. 2:10; 2 John 6; obey His commands-see Deut. 11:26,27; Josh. 1:7; pray to Him as our heavenly Father-see Matt. 6:9; understand He has our best interest in mind-Heb. 12:10,11; recognize He will treat us as His children-see Luke 11:13.)

- Author Towns writes, 'If you do not sense that God is using hardships in your life to move you closer to Him or to reveal unconfessed sin, it may indicate that you aren't really His child." How does the discipline of God reflect His love for us as His children? (see Heb. 12:5-8).

- How can you take comfort in the pain of judgment when being disciplined by God? (see vv. 6,7,10,11).

- How do these attributes of God provide a basis for our claiming God's provision in the midst of our problems? (see Deut. 31:6; Ps. 100:5; 1 Thess. 5:24).

- Is every reverse, hardship or trial the discipline of God? (see Ps. 34:19). How may we differentiate between God's discipline and the normal pitfalls of daily living?

Optional Step 4

A group member shares a specific problem he or she is working through. Everyone assists in applying the aforementioned six biblical guidelines or principles to this person's situation.

CONCLUSION

- Learners form clusters of three. Encourage them to share concerning a problem they experienced in the last six months, and how the six guidelines or principles of problem solving helped or could have helped in resolving their problems.

- Move among clusters and offer guidance.

- Offer a corporate prayer, thanking God for His involvement in our lives and for His help in resolving our problems.

Assignment:

Members prepare for the next study by reading chapter 4 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names*.

STUDY 4
MOST HIGH GOD

El Elyon

Possessor of Heaven and Earth

A B C Plan for the Study

Study Verse:
"And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth.' Genesis 14:19

Study Goals:
Gain an understanding of the implications of the name of God as *El Elyon;* Submit your life and assets to God's ownership.

Materials Needed:
- At least one copy of the Regal book, *My Father's Names,* by Elmer L. Towns;
- One copy of the Study 4 Lesson Outline for each group member;
- One copy of the Study 4 handout for each group member;
- Optional: Chalkboard or overhead projector and transparency;
- Optional: Transparency of the Lesson Outline.

Advance Preparation:

Prepare mobiles that represent success to some adults, such as: A luxury automobile, spacious home, large bank account or investments, top position with their company, good careers for their children, etc. Hang the mobiles in strategic locations in the room.

APROACH

- Draw attention to the mobiles and say, *Most adults have dreams or definitions of success that relate to the acquiring of possessions or the achieving of some task. The mobiles displayed represent some of these possessions or achievements. Can you think of others? Why are these items or achievements regarded as a measurement for success?*

Say, *We all have some possessions and many adults have realized outstanding achievements. But sometimes we struggle with keeping a right perspective regarding our possessions and successes. Our study of God as "El Elyon"-the Possessor of heaven and earth will help us to have a proper attitude toward the things He has given us and the successes we enjoy.*

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Step 1

Bible Search-Share that in chapter 4 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names,* Elmer L. Towns asks, "What names would the enemies of God use when addressing Him?" Say, *We are going to discover from Scripture some names and descriptive titles that Christ's enemies, those who were offended by Him or who were unbelievers used in referring to Him and in addressing Him during His public ministry.*

- Ask everyone to pair up with another learner.

- Distribute the Study 4 handout titled 'Name Callers" and direct everyone to follow the instructions on the handout to complete the assignment. Assign numbers 1-5 to one half of the pairs and numbers 6-10 to the other half.

- Regain the attention of members and receive feedback. Include the following questions in the discussion:

  a. What do these names reveal about their perception of Jesus?

  b. What do these names or titles reveal about those who used them?

Step 2

Discussion-Ask the listed questions and share the following lessons (refer to chapter 4 of the Regal book for added lesson material):

- Distribute a Lesson Outline to each Bible student and encourage note-taking. (Optional: Do the same on chalkboard or Lesson Outline Transparency.)

- The name Elyon means *highest* in the sense of being superior to others. Ask for examples of how we tend to think of that which is higher as being better. (An elevated throne or chair for a political or religious leader; penthouse suite; home or building erected on the highest hill.)

- The name El Elyon was first used by Satan before the fall of Adam and Eve (see Isa. 14:1214). Why is this name used by Satan and demons to identify God and Jesus? (They want to be who He is and possess what belongs to Him.)

- Ask learners to open their Bibles to Isaiah 14:12-14, and invite a volunteer to read aloud this passage.

- Direct members to the first point on their outlines and briefly explain how Satan's fivestep plan to ascend to the place of God led to his fall. Mention that many of these same attitudes tend to be characteristic of today's society.

  a. How do these attitudes sometimes impact us in our Christian lives? (1. Tendency to overachieve to win approval; 2. promote ourselves in unwholesome ways; 3. work for promotions while risking the quality of interpersonal relationships; 4. set unreasonable personal goals; and 5. attempt to be like someone else rather than develop the potential God has given us.

  b. How does Satan gain more influence and control over our lives? (see Rom. 6:16; Jas. 1:14; 1 John 2:15-17).

  c. How can our relationship with El Elyon help us overcome Satan's influence in our lives? (Leads to a recognition of God's values as higher than those of Satan's; causes a humbling on our part, thus not giving Satan an opening through pride; results in acknowledging God's control in our lives; identifies God's ability as greater than that of Satan's; leads us to be filled with the Spirit, rather than controlled by Satan.)

- El Elyon is mentioned in Abraham's life following his victory over a major military alliance of that day (see Gen. 14:1-24, especially w. 19,20,22).

  a. How do you think Abraham felt as he returned from the battle?

  b. How would the name El Elyon have special significance to Abraham in light of the emotions he felt following the battle? (Viewing God as the *Highest* helped Abraham keep himself, his victory and the honor and hospitality offered by the other kings in perspective; viewing God as the *Possessor* helped Abraham keep the material spoils he had captured and his own personal possessions in proper perspective; see w. 16,17,21-24.)

  c. Contrast the focus of the two kings Abraham met on his return from battle (see w. 18-21). What can we learn from this contrast?

  d. Read aloud Abraham's response to the king of Sodom in verses 22-24. The expression "I have lift up mine hand unto..." (v. 22) implies the taking of an oath of allegiance. Briefly share how Abraham's oath of allegiance to El Elyon meant Abraham could not enter into any relationship with the king of Sodom that might compromise Abraham's allegiance to God.

e. How can such an oath be applied to our lives today? (see Maft. 6:24).

Step 3

Research and Discussion-Say, *Arriving at a commitment such as Abraham's is often the end of a process of growth in one's understanding of God. Add, We will see this principle illustrated in God's dealings with Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon.*

If your group is composed of less than eight members, work together as one group to complete the following assignment:

- Move learners into small groups of four to six and appoint group leaders.
- Direct members to the second point on their outlines that deals with "Most High God: El *Elyon'* and His ministry to Nebuchadnezzar (B). Learners research the Bible references listed alongside numbers 1-5 to discover the five steps that led to Nebuchadnezzar's enlightenment of God and to his final act of humbling himself before El Elyon.
- Re-gather into the larger group and receive feedback from group leaders. Responses should include the following points:

  a. Daniel 1: 18-20-Nebuchadnezzar is impressed with the servants of God.

  b. Daniel 2:46,47-He comes to recognize the superiority of God over other gods.

  c. Daniel 3:26-29-He acknowledged God's power to deliver.

  d. Daniel 4:34-37-He recognized the rule of El Elyon over his own life.

  e. Daniel 5:18-22-His relationship with El Elvon became the basis of his testimony and witness of God to others.

CONCLUSION

- Challenge members to evaluate their own relationship with God in terms of the five stages of growth in Nebuchadnezzar's life.
- Which stage are you in presently? What is the next stage for which you should be aiming'
- Ask everyone to join with two or three other learners and pray together concerning their respective responses to God as El Elyon.

Assignment:

Members prepare for the next study by reading chapter 5 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names.*

STUDY 5

THE EVERLASTING GOD

El Olam

And the Secret Name God

A B C Plan for the Study

Study Verse:

"Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God." Psalm 90:2

Study Goals:

Gain a deeper appreciation of the mystery surrounding the eternal God;
Apply biblical principles relating to God as *El Olam* to our lives.

Materials Needed:

- At least one copy of the Regal book, *My Father's Names*, by Elmer L. Towns;
- One copy of the Study 5 Lesson Outline for each group member;
- One copy of the Study 5 handout for each group member;
- Optional: Chalkboard, flipchart or overhead projector and transparency,
- Optional: Transparency of the Lesson Outline.

Advance Preparation:

Read the information under "Advance Preparations" for Session 6 in order to make needed advance contacts for next week's study.

APPROACH

Ask the following question or write it on the chalkboard or overhead transparency: Why *do we keep secrets or sometimes withhold information about something?*

- Invite members to consider the question and then neighbor-nudge the person next to them and share answers.

- After several minutes, ask for responses. (Responses may include: Protect them from something negative; make a surprise more enjoyable; prevent someone from being overwhelmed; etc.)

- Say, *In today's study we will discover that God has some secrets, and that He has reasons for not telling us everything we want to know. As we consider another name of God, we will learn why God withholds some information from us.*

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Step 1

Lecture-As an introduction to the discussion in Step 2, present the following lessons (see chapter 5 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names,* by Elmer L. Towns, for added lesson material):

- Distribute a Study 5 Lesson Outline to everyone and encourage note-taking. Optional: Do the same on the chalkboard or overhead transparency.

- Invite a volunteer to read aloud Psalm 90:2.

- The title, Everlasting God, was first revealed to Abraham (see Gen. 21:33).

- Share that El Olam, the Everlasting God, is a secret name for God, hinting at His mysterious nature (see Rom. 11:33,34).

- Review that the prefix El is from *Elohim,* meaning "strong Creator."

- Write the following Hebrew words and respective meanings on the board or flipchart (Note: Hebrew is written from right to left.):

IIw[la la-the Everlasting God

II[la la-the Hidden God

- Point out that the only difference between the first and second expressions is the absence of **w** in the second.

- Explain to everyone that ancient rabbis used the second spelling of Olam, which is *alam.* In this way they underscored the mysterious nature of God and the truth that there is much about God that remains hidden (see Ps. 10:1; see also Lev. 5:2; 2 Kings 4:27).

- Present the differing views of scholars regarding the revelation of God as El Olam to Abraham at Beer-sheba (see Gen. 21:33).

- Share how the full truth of many Old Testament events was hidden in the shadows or types of what was to come in Christ (see John 3:14,15; Gal. 4:22-30).

- Mention how El Olam is seen in a specific period (see Exod. 21:1-6; Lev. 25:46; 1 Sam. 1: 1-22) and to describe a former time (see Josh. 24:2).

Step 2

Discussion

- The name El Olam means the Everlasting God (see Ps. 90:2). Why is eternity an important attribute of God? (It insures nothing existed before God or will outlast God; nothing is more enduring than God; God is always available when needed throughout all times.)

- What are some of the other attributes of God that are impacted by His everlastingness?

  (Mercy and loving kindness-see Pss. 25:6; truth-see 100:5; 146:5,6; righteousness-see 103:17; 119:142; strength-see Isa. 26:4.)

- Author Towns writes in chapter 5 of the Regal book, 'Abraham was calling on the One who is always and eternally available to us .... the God who is eternally changeless." Why do people today need an eternal, unchangeable Lord, El Olam?

- What are some of the changes you have faced in the last year that have caused you to look to God for stability? (Answers may include: Job change; move to a new home; recent marriage, separation or divorce; conflicts with children or others at one's employment; health problems; birth of a first child, etc.)

- We discussed in the Approach the reasons why it is sometimes good to keep secrets from others. What are some of the experiences you have passed through that would have overwhelmed you if you knew about them before they occurred?

- What are some of the benefits you are now experiencing because you passed through those experiences?

Step 3

Research and Discussion

- Briefly summarize the four applications listed under the heading 'Application' in chapter 5 of the Regal book. Be sure to point out that the principle of The Burden of Knowledge refers to one's responsibility to respond to revealed truth.

If your group is composed of less than eight members, work together as one group to complete the following assignment:

- Move everyone into small groups of from four to six members and appoint group leaders.

- Distribute the Study 5 handout titled "To Know or Not to Know" to everyone and assign two of the applications (numbers 1-4) on the outline to each group. Direct learners to follow the instructions on the handout to complete the assignment.

Re-gather for feedback from group leaders. Include the following answers in the discussion:

a. How may we trust a God who hides things from us? (Understand why He hides some things; would not need to trust if nothing was hidden; remember the character of the God who hides things.)

b. How may a Christian make good consistent decisions in areas where God remains silent? (Decide with what is revealed; decide according to the nature of God; decide with the help of natural truth; decide with the aid of your conscience; decide with the spiritual discernment and ability God has given you.)

c. How is the Christian blessed by the promises of Mark 4:10-12 and I Corinthians 2:9, 10? Through the Spirit we can know and understand all that God has given us in Christ; see w. 7,8,12.)

d. In light of the principle of The Burden of Knowledge, how should we live for God? (Respond to God as we know Him; act on the commands we have received from Him; recognize that God will judge on the basis of our understanding.)

CONCLUSION

- If God had a message He wanted to communicate to you, how do you think He would do it?

- Has God been attempting to communicate something to you recently? How has He been trying to get through? (Be sure to give members time to respond to what may be a difficult question to answer. Verbal responses should be voluntary.)

- If learners have identified specific areas they are struggling with regarding what God has revealed to them, invite several members to pray for those specific situations. Conclude by offering a corporate prayer that everyone will internalize biblical principles relating to B Olam and make them a part of his or her decision-making process.

Assignments:
Members prepare for the next study by reading chapter 6 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names***.**

- Inform them that the next study will begin with a sharing time concerning the names of God that they have discovered in their daily readings from the Psalms. Ask them to choose what they consider the three most significant names on their lists, and why each name has a special significance in their lives.

STUDY 6

MIGHTY GOD

El Gibbor

And the Strong Names God

A B C Plan for the Study

Study Verse:
"Who *is* this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle." Psalm 24:8

Study Goals:
- Gain a deeper understanding of several names of God that reveal His strength
- Identify an area where you need to yield to the protective power of God in your life.

Materials Needed:
- At least one copy of the Regal book, *My Father's Names,* by Elmer L. Towns;
- One copy of the Study 6 Lesson Outline for each group member;
- One copy of the Study 6 handout for each group member;
- Optional: Chalkboard or overhead projector and transparency;
- Optional: Transparency of the Lesson Outline.

Advance Preparations:

- Collect several pictures from magazines or brochures of items that communicate strength, such as massive rocks, weapons, machines, animals, cars, athletes, power plants, etc. Display these pictures around the room before the study begins.
- Enlist three members to prepare a two-minute summary each of the lesson material relating to one of the following three names of God: *El Gibbor, Abir and Tsur.* This material appears in chapter 6 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names* (see information under the heading, "A God for the Storms of Life'). Additional resources may include a study Bible and commentary.

APPROACH

- Invite several members to share concerning three names of God they have discovered in their daily reading of the Psalms that have significant meaning in their lives. (You may want to invite other learners to share a name of God, considered thus far in the study, that holds special meaning for them.)

- Next, ask members to suggest similes that describe strength. Explain that a simile is a comparison using the words "like" or "as". Say, *An example would be, "As strong as an ox."*

- After several have responded say, *the strength of God is often revealed in names that compare Him to articles of strength. Because one of God's essential attributes is omnipotence (all-powerful), these comparisons do not fully describe all that is true of God's strength. Instead, they concentrate on one aspect of His strength. This study will consider three such Old Testament comparisons.*

BIBLE EXPLORATION
Step I

Lecture-As an introduction to the summaries to be presented in Step 2 by three group members, present the following points and ask the listed questions (refer to chapter 6 of the Regal book under the heading "A God for the Storms of Life" for additional information):

- Distribute a Study 6 Lesson Outline to everyone and encourage note-taking. Optional: Do the same on the chalkboard or overhead transparency.

- When the Israelites needed might in battle, they were more likely to call on *Jehovah Sabbath,* the LORD of Host, a name meaning that God was the Lord of the fighting angels (refer to 2 Kings 19:31-36).

- In chapter 6 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names,* Elmer L. Towns writes that the strength names of God were used in the spiritual storms of life, when the people were weak or discouraged or in need of emotional strength.

  a. What are some of the things that can sap our emotional and spiritual strength that would require that we call on the strength names of the Lord?

  b. Why do you think some people hesitate to reach out to someone stronger than themselves when they are down?

Step 2
Summaries of Strength Names

Three members present two-minute summaries each on one of the following strength names of God:

a. **El Gibbor: Mighty God.**

Deuteronomy 10: 1 7; Psalm 24:8; Isaiah 9:6.

b. **Abir: Mighty and Strong.**
Genesis 49:24; Psalm 132:2,5; Isaiah 1:24; Romans 7:24-8:4.

c. **Tsur: Rock.**
Deuteronomy 32:4,15,18,30,31.

Step 3

Assignment and Discussion
If your group is composed of less than eight members, work together as one group to complete the following assignment.

- Move learners into small groups of four to six and appoint group leaders.
- Distribute the handout titled "Name Power" to everyone and assign one of the names on the handout (A-C) to each group.
- Direct members to follow the instructions on their handouts to complete the assignment.
- Re-gather into larger group and receive feedback from group leaders. Include the following answers to the questions if they are not included in the responses:

a. **El Gibbor.**

1. Exceptional physical strength; agility; and power (see Deut. 10: 1 7; Ps. 24:8).

2. Because of God's exceptional strength, He is not overwhelmed by our problems; flexible enough to adjust to them; powerful enough to overcome them.

b. **Abir.**

1. This name is used only in conjunction with the names of Jacob and Israel (see Gen. 49:24; Ps. 132:2,5; Isa. 1:24).

2. God's power is designed to help His people overcome the old nature-Jacob, meaning "supplanter" (see Gen. 27:36; Rom. 7:24-8:4) and to strengthen the new nature Israel, meaning a "prince with God" or 'having power with God" (see Gen. 32:28).

c. **Tsur.**

1. Stability and consistent protection (see Deut. 32:4,15,18,30,31).
2. Protection is available in the midst of stormy times or in severe trials; God is immovable.

- Draw learners' attention to the pictures displayed in the room and point out that as these items communicate strength and power, even so God used objects and figures of speech to illustrate His might and strength. Add, *We have not considered all of the strength names of God in this study but only three that illustrate aspects of God's all-powerful nature.*

CONCLUSION

- Briefly summarize the following three principles of protection that author Towns derives from his study of the strength names of God (see chapter 6 of the Regal book under the heading "Application'):

  a. God cannot protect what we won't give Him.

  b. God can't work His way in our lives while we work out our ways.

  c. Protection begins with a relationship, not a rabbit's foot.

- Ask the following questions that deal with the aforementioned first two principles (the third principle will be considered in the "Further Application and Study" section of the outline):

  a. What things/areas do we tend to keep under our own control, and what is our motivation?

  b. How does turning these things/areas over to God bring more enjoyment to us?

  c. How do we sometimes get in the way of God's protection?

  d. What biblical principles govern God's protection?

  e. Author Towns writes in chapter 6 of the Regal book, "Those who are living in constant obedience have better reasons to trust in the protection of El Gibbor, the Mighty God." Is this a guarantee of God's protection? Why or why not?

  f. How do we deal with believers who live spiritually and yet suffer or die from accidents or experience martyrdom? (see Rom. 8:28; Heb. 11:35-37).

  g. Can the new believer expect to escape past consequences of rebellion against God in this life? Why or why not?

- Direct learners' attention to their handouts titled 'Name Power." Encourage members to work alone to complete number 3 under the name that was assigned to their respective small group.

- Next, challenge learners to determine how they will personally apply the truth of one of the strength names of God to their area of need. Allow several minutes for silent thinking and writing.

- Conclude this study with a time of prayer, thanking God for the protection found in His strength names and asking for His help to yield to His protection.

Assignment:

- Members prepare for the next study by reading chapter 7 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names.*

STUDY 7

KING

Jehovah Melek

The Throne Name of God

A B C Plan for the Study

Study Verses:

"For the LORD is our judge, the LORD *is* our lawgiver, the LORD *is* our king; he win save us .... Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool." Isaiah 33:22; 66:1

Study Goals:

- Acquire a greater understanding of the authority and rule of God as our King,
- Acknowledge areas in your life where you need to yield to God and His will as a subject would yield to the desires of his or her king.

Materials Needed:

- At least one copy of the Regal book, *My Father's Names*, by Elmer L. Towns;
- One copy of the Study 7 Lesson Outline for each group member;
- One copy of the Study 7 handout for each group member;
- Hymnals or chorus books with the words of the closing hymn or chorus to be sung,
- Small index cards or Post-it Notes, with Scripture references;
- Optional: Chalkboard or overhead projector and transparencies;
- Optional: Transparency of the Lesson Outline.

Advance Preparation:

- Write the following Scripture references on small index cards or Post-it Notes-one per card: Genesis 49:10; Psalm 5:2; Psalm 10:16; Psalm 11:4; Psalm 60:7; Psalm 74:12; Psalm 84:3; Psalm 93:1; Psalm 96:10; Psalm 97:1; Psalm 99:1; Isaiah 6:5; Isaiah 33:22; Isaiah 66:1.

APPROACH

- Distribute the index cards or Post-it Notes with Scripture references to different learners. Ask them to be prepared to read the Scriptures listed on their respective cards when called on during Step 1 of the Bible Exploration.

- Invite everyone to suggest words or phrases that come to mind when he or she thinks of a king. Record responses without comment on the chalkboard or overhead transparency.

- Ask, *What were the primary functions of a king in the age when kings ruled?* (Responses should include: Established laws; interpreted laws; provided public services; insured social stability; defended national interest.)

- *Say, Your responses represent your corporate perceptions of what a king was and what his primary functions were. In today's study we will consider the various aspects of God's kingship and the effects this knowledge should have on our lives today.*

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Step 1

Scripture Reading

- Announce that several learners will read aloud various Scripture verses pertaining to God's kingship and sovereignty. Following each verse, group members are to suggest the aspect of God's kingship revealed in that verse. This information will prepare Bible students for the discussion that follows later in the study. Jot down responses on the board or overhead transparency.

- Bible students with assigned Scripture verses read aloud their respective verses, followed by group members suggesting the aspect of God's kingship revealed in each verse.

- Point out the following three aspects of Genesis 49:10 (see chapter 7 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names,* by Elmer L. Towns, under the heading "The Role of the King"): (1) Promise of a king of Israel; (2) the king would have legislative power to establish laws; and (3) the king of Israel would come from the tribe of Judah.

- Compare scriptural aspects of God's kingship with group's perceptions of an earthly kingship given in the Approach.

Step 2

- Distribute a Study 7 Lesson Outline to everyone and encourage note-taking. Optional: Do the same on the chalkboard or overhead transparency.

- Invite members to open their Bibles to Isaiah 6:1-8. Ask for a volunteer to read aloud this passage.

- Briefly summarize the lesson material presented in chapter 7 of the Regal book, under the headings "Isaiah's Vision of the King" and "The Role of the Kings." Stress the following points:

  a. God reigns from a throne in the Temple (see v. 1) that represents redemption, not from an earthly throne that represents authority and might.

  b. Isaiah saw the Lord as King sitting on a throne (see v. 1). The experience overwhelmed him (see v. 5).

  c. Isaiah responded to God's call into the ministry (see v. 8).

- Kingship in Israel had a two-fold significance.

  a. King was functional; he provided legislative, judicial and executive services for the people.

     1. He enacted laws (see Ps. 60:7; Isa. 33:22).

     2. He interpreted the laws (see 1 Kings 3:16-27).

     3. He provided services (refer to 4:1-34 that points up Solomon's organizational ability).

  b. King was symbolic, his authority was established by God on earth (see 1 Sam. 10:25; Ps. 2:6).

     1. Took the place of God for the people.

     2. This kingship was called ritual or divine.

- Review aspects of God's kingship that deal with the kingly terms, 'reign' and 'throne' (refer to learners' discoveries from the Scripture verses read aloud in Step 1). Also include

  lesson material from chapter 7 of the Regal book under the heading 'Other Kingly Terms.'

Step 3
Discussion

- Author Towns notes in chapter 7 of the Regal book that authority was apparently delegated to officials who sat on subordinate thrones during David's dynasty (see Ps. 122:5). What are some of the lesser authorities that have received delegated authority from God over our lives? (Parents, national and civic leaders, church leaders, employers; etc.)

- How should we respond to these authorities? (Support, obey and respect them, see Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 6:1,2,5,6; 1 Pet. 2:13-17).

- What if they ask us to compromise our principles? How should we handle this? (Appeal to the higher authority in prayer to God-see Esther 4:15,16; Acts 12:5; Phil. 4:6,7; appeal directly to them in an inoffensive way-see Esther 5:1-4; Acts 4:1-22; 5:27-29; give God time to work in our behalf to change the heart and mind of those in authority, be certain the principle in question is really important to us; be prepared to suffer the consequences associated with not following their wishes-see Dan. 3:1-18; Acts 5:29,40.)

- How does our obedience to those in authority over us affect our obedience to God as King in our lives? (If we do not obey the lesser authorities, we win not ultimately obey God.) Ask for examples of this.

- Point out the thrones of spiritual authority (see Col. 1:16).

- When we consider God as King, how should that shape our attitude toward Him? (Reverence, worship, humility.)

- How can our understanding of God as King promote spiritual growth? (Desire to obey His Laws/Word; depend upon His care of us; be concerned about the interests His Kingdom and His rule in our lives; etc.)

Step 4

Research and Discussion

If your group is composed of less than eight members, work together as one group to complete the following assignment-

- Move everyone into small groups of four to six and appoint group leaders.

- Distribute the Study 7 handout titled 'Throne-room Principles' to learners and assign one section (A-C) to each group.

- Direct members to follow the instructions on their handouts to complete assignments.

- Re-gather into larger group and receive feedback. Inject lessons material from chapter 7 of the Regal book under the heading "Application.'

CONCLUSION

- Reiterate the requisite for entrance into God's Kingdom (see John 3:3). Give anyone who has not received Christ as his or her Savior an opportunity to do so.

- Learners form clusters of three. Ask the following questions, and if members feel comfortable in doing so, encourage them to share answers with those in their clusters:

  a. How can you worship and serve God as your King?

  b. What areas of your life do you have the greatest difficulty in relating to God as King?

- Using hymnals or chorus books, conclude this study by worshiping God through the singing of “O Worship the King," "Majesty" or another appropriate song or hymn.

Assignment:

- Members prepare for the next study by reading chapter 8 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names.*

STUDY 8

THE LORD OF HOSTS

Jehovah Sabaoth

The Militant Name o God

A B C Plan for the Study

Study Verse:

"Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied." 1 Samuel 17:45

Study Goals:

- Gain a deeper understanding of the ministry of *Jehovah Sabbath* and the angels of God;
- Pinpoint an area of your life where you need God's intervention as Jehovah Sabbath in order to realize victory in this situation.

Materials Needed:

- At least one copy of the Regal book, *My Father's Names*, by Elmer L. Towns;
- One copy of the Study 8 Lesson Outline for each group member;
- A roll of shelf paper and several markers;
- Optional: Chalkboard or overhead projector and transparency;
- Optional: Transparency of the Lesson Outline.

Advance Preparations:

- Share one or more accounts of angelic intervention in the lives of believers during Step 1 of the Bible Exploration. Such incidents may be found in contemporary Christian books about angels and in some missionary publications.
- Read the information under "Advance Preparations" for Study 9 in order to make a needed advance assignment.

APPROACH

- On a banner made from shelf paper, letter the following incomplete sentence as the title: *I Think Angels....*

- Tape the banner to the wall. As members arrive ask them to jot down on the banner their thoughts about angels.

- Review the comments made by learners and say, *Today we will consider what God's Word says about angels and how God, by His name Jehovah Sabbath, utilizes angels to fight for us.*

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Step 1

Discussion

- Share the account of one or more contemporary examples of angelic intervention in the fives of Christians.

- Have you or someone you know had a similar experience? (Allow several to share.)

- Have you ever been in a situation where you later realized you had been protected from some danger?

- Has there been a time when God used someone unexpected-like a stranger-to help meet a need in your life?

- Are there times when you feel your circumstances are being controlled by someone other than yourself

- Explain that there are two extremes involved when Christians talk about the work of angels in their lives. The first is to deny any involvement at all. The second is to attribute every unexplained event in life to an unseen guardian angel.

Step 2

Research-Announce to the group that we will now look into God's Word to discover how God has used angels to carry out ministry to believers.

- Distribute a Study 8 Lesson Outline to everyone and encourage members to take notes on their outlines as the lesson is being presented. Optional: Do the same on the chalkboard or overhead transparency.

- Direct learners' attention to the first point on their outlines-"Angels in Ministry to Believers." Ask for two volunteers to each read aloud one of the following two passages listed on the outline: A. Hebrews 1: 13,14; and B. Psalm 91:11,12.

- What are the two distinct tasks of angels that are pointed out in these passages? (Ministering spirits-Heb. 1:13,14; providing protection-Ps. 91:11,12).

- Ask half of the group to research the Scripture references (numbers 1-3) listed under point A on the outline, and the other half the Scripture references listed under point B (numbers 1,2). Invite them to discover the ministry mentioned in each passage.

Step 3

Discussion

- Receive feedback from members.

- How would you compare the experiences of these New Testament believers who were ministered to by angels with the experiences of the contemporary believers we discussed earlier in today's study.

- Share the definitions of the title "Jehovah Sabbath" and the two terms, “host" and “angels" (see the first two paragraphs of chapter 8 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names*, by Elmer L. Towns).

- The phrase Jehovah Sabbath occurs 281 times in the Old Testament. It denotes that the God of Israel brought heavenly powers to the aid of His needy people.

Step 4
Research and Discussion

If your group is composed of less than eight members, work together as one group to complete the following assignment:

- Move members into small groups of four to six and appoint group leaders.

- Direct everyone's attention to the second point on the outline-"The Use of *'Jehovah Sabbath-the* LORD of Hosts.’”

- Assign several groups of Scripture references (A-G) to each group. Learners research their assigned references to discover the circumstances in which the name "the LORD of Hosts" Jehovah Sabbath) was used. Mention that they may need to review the context of their assigned passage to get the larger picture.

- Regather into larger group and receive feedback. Include in the discussion the following lessons and listed questions (see chapter 8 of the Regal book for additional lesson material under the heading "The Use of 'Jehovah Sabbath'"):

  a. Explain why the name LORD of Hosts Jehovah Sabbath) is not found in the early books of the Bible, and why it is a phrase mostly related to the Prophets.

  b. When Israel was losing the battle to the Philistines, they brought the Ark to the battle-field in hopes that its presence would save them (see 1 Sam. 4:1-3). Why do you think they lost the battle just the same? (see vv. 4-10).

  c. Following Israel's continued defeats in battle and the destruction of Jerusalem, God continued to be Jehovah Sabbath, the LORD of the angels to them. Author Towns writes in chapter 8 of the Regal book, "This name pointed the people to a new and higher spiritual relationship to God as individuals, not just a return to the former corporate relationship that Jehovah had with the nation."

  d. Author Towns notes further, "Implied in the name [LORD of Hosts] is the promise of a victory." Why is this an important aspect of God to remember?

  e. How can the account of David and Goliath help us deal with "Goliaths" in our lives?

  f. Why do we sometimes call for God's help as a last resort? (Pride; feelings of self-suffi ciency; failure to realize the power of Jehovah Sabbath.)

  g. Explain the two sides of Jehovah Sabbath as linked to the word "devourer" (Mal. 3:11; translated from the Hebrew word "eater").

  h. Does knowing God as Jehovah Sabbath mean that we will not experience trials or go through battles? Why or why not? (see Ps. 34:19; Jas. 1:2,3; refer also to Eph. 6:10-18).

  i. Why does God sometime allow believers to be defeated in battle?

CONCLUSION

- What struggle are you experiencing in your life that requires the help of Jehovah Sabbath to overcome? What can you do this week to realize spiritual victory in this area? (Draw members' attention to the lower section of their outlines and encourage them to complete the 'Further Application and Study" assignments in the coming week.)

- Give an opportunity for those who may be facing intense battles in their lives to share their needs at this time.

- Close the study by inviting several volunteers to pray in behalf of those who need the intervention of Jehovah Sabbath in their lives.

Assignment:

Members prepare for the next study by reading chapter 9 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names.*

STUDY 9

THE LORD/MASTER

Adonai

The Headship Name God

A B C Plan for the Study

Study Verses:

"And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I *am* the least in my father's house. And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man." Judges 6:15,16

Study Goals:

Receive a deeper understanding of the master/slave relationship that we have with God;
Decide on one step you will take to improve this relationship.

Materials Needed:

- At least one copy of the Regal book, *My Father's Names*, by Elmer L. Towns;
- One copy of the Study 9 Lesson Outline for each group member;
- One copy of the Study 9 handout for each group member;
- Small index cards, one for each group member;
- Optional: Chalkboard, flipchart or overhead projector and transparencies;
- Optional: Transparency of the Lesson Outline.

Advance Preparations:

- Enlist a member to participate in an interview relating to God's name *Adonai* that will take place in Step 1 of the Bible Exploration. This person may prepare for the interview by studying the material under the heading "The Lord/Master: *Adonai*, the Headship Name of God" in chapter 9 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names*, by Elmer L. Towns. Rehearse the interview.

- Write on the chalkboard, flipchart or overhead projector transparency the following two questions:

  1. What situation or difficulty caused this individual to respond to God in the master/servant relationship, or call on Adonai for help?

  2. What similar situation or difficulty may a believer face that would prompt him or her to respond to God in the master/servant relationship, or look to Adonai for help?

- Read the information under 'Advance Preparations" for Study 10 in order to make a needed advance assignment.

APPROACH

- Distribute an index card to members present. Ask them to write down any words or thoughts that may come to their minds when they think about a master/slave relationship.

- Collect the cards and quickly share a few of the Words and thoughts that were expressed in writing.

- Say, *Your comments about a master/slave relationship are interesting and reveal both positive and negative views* (or mostly negative views if that be the case). *In today's study we will consider the master/slave aspect of our relationship with God and how this relationship is a positive one.*

BIBLE EXPLORATION
Step 1

Interview-Distribute a Study 9 Lesson Outline to everyone and encourage note-taking.
Optional: Do the same on the chalkboard or overhead transparency.
Ask the following questions of the person enlisted to participate in the interview:

- Adonai comes from the Hebrew word *adon.* What did this word describe?

- Why did the rabbis substitute the name Adonai for the name *Jehovah?* Mention the fact that as a result of this practice, Adonai came to be the most common spoken name of God and is used 340 times in the Hebrew Old Testament.

- What is the twofold meaning of Adonai?

- The relationship between master and servant begins with the master. What are the master's responsibilities to his slave?

- Why do most people have a negative view of the master/slave relationship? How did the master/slave relationship differ in Bible times? How does the master/slave relationship with God differ from the negative view most people hold?

- Point out that while the Bible does not advocate slavery as a practice today, it does draw on aspects of this relationship to teach us about our own relationship with God (see 1 Cor. 7:21,22).

Step 2
Lecture

- Elmer L. Towns writes in chapter 9 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names*, "The term Adonai (Master) explains the very heart of Christianity, which is the relationship between God and the believer." This marks the difference between the Christian and the world.

  a. The Christian has a relationship with God.

  b. In practice, the world denies such a relationship.
     Three things the name Adonai assures for believers:

  a. God as their Master has the resources and ability to care for them as His slaves. This truth births trust in God's care for them.

  b. Help is available to them to perform the servant's duties.

  c. They have the privilege of calling on their relationship with the Master to get the help they need.

Step 3

Research and Discussion

If your group is composed of less than eight members, work together as one group to complete the following assignment:

- Move learners into groups of four to six and assign group leaders. Next, direct everyone's attention to the third point on his or her outline-"Bible People Who Called upon the Master/Servant Relationship."

- Assign several Bible people (A-G) to each group. Instruct members to research the Scripture references fisted with their assigned areas, then answer the two questions that appear on the chalkboard, flipchart or overhead transparency. (If these teaching tools are not used, verbalize the questions.)

- Regather for feedback from group leaders. Include in the discussion the following lessons and listed questions (see chapter 9 of the Regal book under the heading 'The Master/Slave Relationship" for additional lesson material):

    a. Abraham experienced delayed expectations. He needed assurance that God would take care of him as his Master and keep His covenant as Jehovah (the covenant keeping God.)

    b. Both Moses and Jeremiah were experiencing feelings of inadequacy. They needed encouragement, so they called on Adonai for help.

    c. Gideon was fearful, insecure and lacked direction. He looked to his Master for guidance and power

    d. Samson's strength was restored when he called upon his slave/master relationship with God in his final repentant prayer. Samson was confident his Master would provide the help he needed to fulfill his duties as a servant-that of avenging God's enemies. What does Samson's final prayer teach us about God?

    e. Although David was highly honored by God, he humbly acknowledged the slave/master relationship in his prayer before the Lord. What lesson can we learn from David's humble attitude?

Step 4

Lecture-Briefly present the two points listed under 'Application' in chapter 9 of the Regal book.

- Include under point one how the apostle Peter violated the spirit of the name Adonai *(kurios* in the Greek New Testament) in his objection to the command given by God in his vision (see Acts 10:9-16). Peter's negative response represented a conflict of ideas (see v. 14). If God is Lord and Master, we are not at liberty to refuse His commands.

CONCLUSION

- Distribute the Study 9 handout with the sections titled "Facing Up" and 'Firming Up" to everyone. Direct learners to follow the instructions on their handouts to complete the assignments in both sections. Allow several minutes for thinking and working.

- Reiterate the truth that the relationship between God and the believer is the very heart of Christianity, and keeping this relationship intact should be a priority in our lives, especially the servant/master relationship.

- Allow for a time of reflective thinking and silent prayer. Then close the study in a corporate prayer, thanking God for all He makes available to us in the master/servant relationship.

Assignments:

- Members prepare for the next study by reading chapter 10 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names.*

- The next study deals with the most common name of God in Scripture-Elohim. Encourage learners to conduct an informal survey of their friends this week, asking them to describe who they think God is in one or two sentences. Explain that there will be time to share the findings of this survey in the next study.

STUDY 10

GOD

Elohim

The Strong Creator

A B C Plan for the Study

Study Verses:

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Genesis 1: 1
"Hear, 0 Israel: The LORD our God *is* one LORD." Deuteronomy 6:4

Study Goal:

- Gain a fuller understanding of the name of God, *Elohim;*
- Apply the truth of one of God's names or an aspect of His name to a situation or need in your life.

Materials Needed:

- At least one copy of the Regal book, *My Father's Names*, by Elmer L. Towns;
- One copy of the Study 10 Lesson Outline for each group member;
- Optional: Chalkboard or overhead projector and transparency;
- Optional: Transparency of the Lesson Outline.

Advance Preparations:

- Enlist a member to prepare a two-minute report on the name of God, Elohim. This person's report should include the following lessons:

  1. A brief review of the three primary names of God in the Old Testament: *Elohim (GO4 Jehovah* (LORD) and *Adonai* (Master).

2. The root meaning of Elohim.

Refer enlisted person to lesson material in chapter 10 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names,* by Elmer L. Towns, under the heading "God: *Elohim,* the Strong Creator." A Bible dictionary will also serve as a helpful resource.

- Read the information under "Advance Preparations' for Study 11 in order to make a needed advance assignment.

APROACH

- Ask for responses from several persons regarding the surveys that members were asked to conduct among their friends as to their thoughts about who God is. Discuss also other popular ideas about who God is.

- Say, *In today's study we will focus on the Hebrew name Elohim, which is translated 'God' in the English Bible. And we will consider several terms that describe who God is and the effect this knowledge should have on our lives.*

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Step 1

- **Report-**Distribute a Study 10 Lesson Outline to everyone and encourage note-taking. Optional: Do the same on the chalkboard or overhead transparency.

- Member presents a two-minute report on the name of God, Elohim.

Step 2

Discussion

- Direct Bible students' attention to the second point-"Who Is God?" on their outlines. Ask for volunteers who will look up one or several of the Scripture references listed under points A-G. They are to be prepared to read the Scriptures aloud when called on.

- Call for the reading aloud of the Scriptures listed under point A-“God Is Life" on the outline, followed by a discussion of that point. Repeat this process for points B-G. Keep the focus of the discussion on the truths of who God is and how these truths impact the believer's life today. Include in the discussion the following lessons and listed questions (see chapter 10 of the Regal book, under the heading 'Who Is God?" for further lesson material):

Who Is God?

a. If God is life or the energy of the universe, how may we tap into that energy to live the Christian life? (Allow God to live in and through us; see Isa. 40:31; Gal. 2:20.)

b. What difference would it make if God were not a person? (One can't have a meaningful relationship with an impersonal force.)

c. Point out that Christ's incarnation was God manifest in the flesh (see John 1: 1, 14).

How does the spirituality of God affect our worship of God? (We must worship God in spirit and truth-see John 4:24; Scripture prohibits our use of idols or images in worship-see Exod. 20:4.)

How do we reconcile the truth that God is invisible with the Scriptures that imply

some persons saw God? (see Gen. 32:30; Exod. 34:6,8; Isa. 6:1).

d. How does God's self-existence provide encouragement for the believer? (The One on whom we depend does not depend on anyone else for support; therefore He cannot and will not fail us.)

e. Why does God have so many names if there is only one God? (Names reflect various dimensions of an extremely complex personality. If they represented different gods, there would be a conflict or clash.)

f. Why is it so important that God cannot change? (Anything that can change is imperfect, thus God's unchangeableness insures that He is perfect. We can then be assured that He will remain true to His Word.)

Can God change His mind? (see Gen. 6:6; 1 Sam. 15:1 1). If so, how do we reconcile this truth with the truth that He is unchanging?

g. If God is unlimited by time and space, what have we allowed to limit our perception of Him? (Answers may refer to various personal situations that some learners have assumed are beyond the interest of God. It is important to stress that God is interested in all the details of our lives. Stress also that God is unlimited, except by His own character; i.e. He cannot lie because He is truthful.)

Step 3

Study Triplets-Mention that one of the more difficult aspects of understanding who God is, is trying to understand the Trinity. This is in part due to the unlimited nature of God.
There are many things beyond the limits of our understanding and imagination that may be true of God. Say, *In the next few minutes, we will endeavor to answer the classic question, How can God be three and one at the same time?*

- *Move members into groups of three and direct their attention to the third point on their outlines "God Is Three-in-One."*

- Assign one or two of the statements (A-E) listed under the third point to each group. Ask learners to research Scripture references listed with their assigned statement(s) and be prepared to discuss how, from Scripture, these statements imply the Trinity.

- Regather for feedback from the triplets. Include in the feedback, lessons from chapter 10 of the Regal book, under the heading "God Is Three-in-One."

- In summary, point out that the Trinity does not teach the idea of three gods, as some cultic groups argue, but rather three distinct personalities present in one God, or three distinct manifestations of the first.

CONCLUSION

- Present the lesson material under "Application" in chapter 10 of the Regal book by asking the following questions. Be prepared to read aloud the listed Scripture verses:

  a. *Exodus 20:7.* What is indicated when people take God's name in vain? (They are speaking lightly of God, Himself. And when they curse by the use of God's name, they are rejecting God and His control over their lives.)

  b. *Psalm 46:1* 0. Why is it important to seek God by His name? (It reveals the nature of His person and His work and serves to remind us of all that He is. This strengthens our confidence and trust in Him.)

  c. *Genesis 1:27.* How does knowing God, help us to better understand ourselves? (Realizing we are made in God's image, the greater knowledge that we gain of Him results in a better understanding of ourselves and our original potential. Also, being made in God's image places a dignity upon human life not realized apart from this knowledge.)

  d. *John 17:3.* According to this verse, what is eternal life? How may we know God and His Son, Jesus Christ? Is it possible to truly know someone apart from developing a relationship with this person? Why or why not? How would this apply to our knowing God?

- Stress the first step in knowing God-accepting Him as one's personal Savior (see Rom. 10:9,10; Heb. 11:6). Provide an opportunity for anyone who has not taken this first step to do so.

- Draw members attention to the second point on their outline-"Who Is God?" Encourage them to select one of the seven terms (A-G) listed under this second point that they need to apply to a situation or area of need in their lives. Using the reverse side of their outlines, ask learners to write down their respective answers to the following question: What change do you desire in this situation or area of need as a result of this application?

- Conclude the study by asking God to help members draw upon the truths of the various terms used to describe Him, as they face the challenges of daily living.

Assignment:

Members prepare for the next study by reading chapter 11 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names.*

STUDY 11
LORD
Jehovah

The Self- existent God

ABC Plan for the Study

Study Verse:
"These *are* the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens." Genesis 2:4

Study Goal:

- Receive an understanding of the six important attributes associated with the name of the LORD God, *Jehovah;*
- Discuss how we may get to know God in a personal way so that we may benefit from the knowledge we have gained of Him.

Materials Needed:

- At least one copy of the Regal book, *My Father's Names*, by Elmer L. Towns;
- One copy of the Study 11 Lesson Outline for each group member;
- One copy of the Buzz Group Assignments sheet for each buzz group leader;
- Optional: Chalkboard, flipchart or overhead projector and transparencies;
- Optional: Transparency of the Lesson Outline.

Advance Preparations:

- Enlist a member to participate in an interview of the name of Jehovah (LORD God) that will be conducted during Step 1 of the Bible Exploration. This person may prepare for t interview by studying lesson material in chapters 1 and 11 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names*, by Elmer L. Towns.
- Read the information under "Advance Preparations" for Study 12 in order to make a needed advance assignment.

APPROACH

Optional: Write the following incomplete sentences on the chalkboard, flipchart or overhead transparency:

- *a. The initial step I would take to get to know this person would be to...*

  b. The succeeding steps I would take to establish a relationship would be to...

- Invite everyone to move his or her chair into a large circle or several smaller circles.

- *Say, Suppose you have been asked by someone to become acquainted with a certain person and to establish a relationship with him or her. How would you accomplish this?* Direct members' attention to the incomplete statements listed on the board, flipchart or overhead transparency. (If these teaching tools are not used, verbalize the incomplete statements to the group.)

- Invite each member to verbally complete one of the circle response statements.

- Say, *We have discovered that getting to know a person doesn't just happen. It takes concerted effort and desire. Add, In today's study we will consider attributes that* **will** *help us to know what God is like as well as several factors that will help us to know Him better.*

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Step 1

- **Interview**-Distribute a Study 11 Lesson Outline to learners and encourage note-taking.
  Optional: Do the same on the chalkboard or overhead transparency.
  Use the following questions as a guideline for conducting the interview:

- How soon in Scripture does the name Jehovah appear and how often is it used in the Old Testament?

- Why is it spelled with capitals and small capitals in most Bible translations?

- What attribute of God is revealed by His name Jehovah? What two truths does it contain?

- What practices were observed by the Jews that surrounded the treatment of this name?

- How is the name Jehovah used in contrast to the use of the name *Elohim?*

- How is Jehovah first used in redemption?

Step 2

Discussion-Direct members' attention to the second point-'What Is the LORD like?" on their outlines. Ask for volunteers who will look up the Scripture references listed under the 'Moral Attributes" (numbers 1-3) and be prepared to read the Scriptures aloud when called on during the discussion. Call for the reading aloud of the Scriptures listed under number *1-2'He* is holy" on the outline, followed by a discussion of that point. Repeat this process for numbers 2 and 3.
As an introduction to the discussion, share why the first three attributes are called "moral" attributes and why the second three are called 'comparative" attributes. Include the following lessons and listed questions in the discussion (see chapter 11 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names*, for additional lesson material):

- Share that the word holy means 'to cut off" or "to separate." How would you describe holiness in lay terms?

- How can holiness be both positive and negative? (God is without sin-positive holiness; see 1 John 1:5. But He must judge sin-negative holiness; see Matt. 27:46.)

- If we understand God as holy, how should that affect our life-styles?

- In his Regal book, author Towns describes love as "an attitude of giving one's self to another person." How has God demonstrated His love to you?

- How should an appreciation of God's love influence our other relationships? (Stress the importance of 1 Corinthians 13.)

- What are some practical ways we may demonstrate God's love to people in our community?

- Author Towns writes in the Regal book, 'The goodness of God is His mercy, kindness, long suffering and grace that is manifested to those who are in misery and distress." How do you reconcile God's goodness with the fact that He created hell as a place of judgment for those who are without Christ? (see 2 Thess. 1:8.9; Rev. 20:14,15). Remind the group that in God's goodness He warns of judgment, provided a means of salvation, works to bring the unsaved to Himself and has delayed judgment to give people time to repent (see John 3:16,17; 5:28,29; 16:7-9; 2 Pet. 3:9).

- What groups of people today need to experience God's goodness in their lives? Who do you know, personally, who needs to receive of God's goodness in his or her present distress?

- What good thing has God done for you in the past month? (Encourage sharing, regardless of how insignificant it may seem.)

- Read aloud James 1: 17 and remind the group that God is the source of every good gift.

Step 3

Research

If your group is composed of less than eight members, work together as one group to complete the following assignment:

Move everyone into three or six groups and appoint group leaders.

Direct learners' attention to the three comparative attributes of God listed under the second point- “What Is the LORD Like?" on their outlines.

- Assign one of the three comparative attributes to each group. (If you have six small groups, each attribute will be assigned to two groups.) Members research the Scriptures listed with their assigned attributes and prepare to describe the attributes and how they affect one's relationship with God.

- With learners remaining in their small groups, receive feedback from group leaders.

- Point out that our study of God's attributes has enhanced our understanding of Him. Add, *but we will benefit from this knowledge only as we get to know God in a personal way.*

CONCLUSION

If your group is composed of less than eight members, work together as one group to complete the following assignment:

- Announce that the small groups formed in Step 3 will now serve as buzz groups to consider the subject of "Getting to Know God." Ask previously assigned group leaders to serve as buzz group leaders.

- Distribute a Study 11 "Buzz Group Assignments" sheet to each buzz group leader.

- Assign one or two questions to each group. Buzz group leaders take notes of their respective group's responses.

- Receive feedback from buzz group leaders (include in the discussion, Scriptures and lesson material from chapter 11 of the Regal book, under the heading 'How to Know God").

- Ask, *How well do you know God? Which factor discussed do you need to work on to strengthen your relationship with Him?* Direct learners' attention to the lower section of their outlines and encourage completion of the 'Further Application and Study" assignments in the coming week.

- Invite volunteers to offer sentence prayers of thanksgiving for the attributes of God considered in this study.

Assignments:

- Members prepare for the next study by reading chapter 12 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names.*

- Announce that in the next and final study, everyone will have the opportunity to share the names of God that have enriched his or her understanding of Him. Names selected may come from the group study as well as from a person's personal reading of the Psalms.

STUDY 12

THE FATHER

Pater

The Intimate Name for God

A B C Plan for the Study

Study Verse:

"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name." Matthew 6:9

Study Goals:

- Gain a biblical understanding of God as a loving and caring heavenly Father;
- Respond in a positive way to God as your heavenly Father.

Materials Needed:

- At least one copy of the Regal book, *My Father's Names*, by Elmer L. Towns;
- One copy of the Study 12 Lesson Outline for each group member;
- Enough copies of any one version of the Bible for learners' use in the Optional Unison Bible Reading (see Conclusion). If the *King James Version* is used (copyright free), copies of all the Scripture readings may be made for each member;
- Fourteen small index cards or Post-it Notes with Scripture references;
- Optional: Chalkboard, flipchart or overhead projector and transparencies;
- Optional: Transparency of the Lesson Outline.

Advance Preparations:

- Enlist several members to prepare a brief skit for Optional Step 1 that portrays a father as a caring person who helps resolve a family problem.

- Write the following Scripture references on 14 index cards or Post-it Notes (one for each card): Luke 10:21; Luke 11:13; John 4:23; John 5:17; John 6:27; John 17:11; John 17:25; Romans 1:7; Romans 8:15; Romans 15:6; 2 Corinthians 1:3; Ephesians 4:6; Hebrews 12:9; James 1:17.

- If copies are not made of the Scripture readings, write the following Scripture references, (to be used in the Optional Unison Bible Reading) on the chalkboard, flipchart or overhead transparency: Psalms 5:11; 7:17; 8:1; 9:10; 29:2; 34:3; 105:1,3; 115:1; 124:8; 145:1,2,21; 148:13; Proverbs 18:10; Malachi 3:16.

APPROACH

- Ask learners to share at least one name of God from this study that holds a special meaning for them, and the effect this name has had on their lives. This may include, as well, a name of God discovered in their daily readings of the Psalms.

- Say, *All* the *names of God may be wrapped up in the name of God to be considered in today's study-the name-Father*.

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Optional Step 1

Skit-"The Return of Super Dad"

- Following the presentation by members, point out the positive role of the father in the skit. Mention that some may find it difficult to relate to this ideal role because their fathers were less than that portrayed by the father in the skit.

- Share that in our study of God as Father, we will review the attributes, actions and provisions of the only perfect Father-God. And we will discover that although our earthly fathers may fall short of the ideal role of a father, God will never disappoint us in His role as our heavenly Father.

Step 2

Discussion-Distribute the 14 index cards or Post-it Notes to members. Ask them to be ready-when called on-to share the terms used for God as Father in these New Testament Scriptures.

- Distribute a Study 12 Lesson Outline to everyone and encourage note-taking. Optional: Do the same on the chalkboard or overhead transparency.

- Present the following lessons and listed questions (include further lesson material from chapter 12 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names,* by Elmer L. Towns, under the heading "The Father: *Pater,* the Intimate Name for God"):

  a. Jesus revealed a loving relationship with God by calling Him Father *(Pater* in Greek). It was His favorite title for God. In the Gospel of John, Jesus called God His Father 156 times.

  b. Why did Jesus' intimacy with the Father and His claim to be one with God (see John 5:18; 10:30) upset the Jews to the point that they wanted to kill Him? (This intimate relationship was foreign to them because Old Testament Scriptures did not regularly refer to God as Father. Also their strong view of God was one of a majestic, powerful Creator or Master, not one of a Father. The Jews did, however, refer to God as their Father in John 8:4 1, but only because Jesus told them they were of their father the devil; see w. 39-44.)

  c. Explain the meaning of the few times the Old Testament refers to God has having paternal instincts, as is mentioned in Jeremiah 31:9.

  d. Share about Jesus' attendance at the Passover Feast in Jerusalem at age 12 (see Luke 2:41-49). Read aloud verse 49. What do we learn from Jesus' first recorded reference to God, and not to Joseph, as His Father?

  e. Explain how the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are all equal persons within the godhead, yet one God (see John 14:26; 15:26).

  f. Describe the spiritual kinship believers have because God is their Father (see John 1: 12; 13:33; Gal. 3:26; Philem. 1, 7; 2 John 13).

  g. Ask for those given "Post-it Notes" with Scripture references, to mention aloud the terms used for God in the verses they researched.

Step 3

Research and Discussion

If your group is composed of less than eight members, work together as one group to complete the following assignment:

- Move members into groups of four to six and appoint group leaders.

- Direct learners' attention to points two-“Privileges of the Father's Children" and three "Provisions of the Father" on their outlines. Assign the Scripture references under these two points equally to the various groups. Members are to research the Scriptures to discover the privileges of the Father's children and/or the provisions of the Father.

- Re-gather for feedback from the group leaders. Include the following questions and lessons in the discussion (see chapter 12 of the Regal book, under the headings "What Does It Mean for God to Be Our Father?' and "What Does the Father Do?" for added lesson material):

    a. Share that "Abba, Father" is expressive of an especially close relationship to God (Rom. 8:15).

    b. What can contemporary fathers learn from God the Father? (He is the perfect role model for fathering; fathers need to spend time and be available to their children, providing the guidance and security needed.)

    c. How should we respond to God as our Father? (Love, honor, obey and imitate Him.)

    d. What impresses us most about the way our children respond to us? (Answers will vary. Give parents a few minutes to brag about their kids.)

    e. How may we impress God as His children? (Answers may be related to the previous answers. Remind learners that it is not possible to please God without faith; see Heb. 11:6. However, some of their suggestions may be expressions of faith.)

    f. In what ways may believers' relationships with their earthly fathers affect their relationships with their heavenly Father? (If their earthly fathers were stern or abusive, they usually think of God only as Judge and One who is out to mete quick punishment on them whenever they fail; if they were not loved, they may have difficulty accepting God's love; if their fathers were not good providers, they may struggle in believing that God will provide for their needs; if they were unable to please their fathers, they may feel anything they do is unacceptable to God; etc.)

CONCLUSION

- Ask, *Is there an area in your relationship with God that has been affected by a less than ideal relationship with an earthly father? Where do you need to respond to your heavenly Father in a positive way, refusing to allow the negative aspects of an earthly father relationship to affect your relationship with God?* Allow time for prayerful thinking. Encourage everyone to list on the reverse side of the Lesson Outline one area where his or her relationship with God has been affected.

- Invite members to join with one or two other learners for prayer, asking God's help to overcome any negative influences in their lives that would affect their relationship with their heavenly Father. Some may desire to be specific in sharing their areas of need, while others may choose to refrain.

Optional Unison Bible Reading-Members will read aloud in unison biblical passages that include special promises to those who praise, honor and reverence God's name.

- Distribute copies of the same version of the Bible to the group (or distribute a copy of the Scripture verses-KIV-prepared in advance to everyone).

- Members look up the Scripture references listed on the chalkboard, flipchart or overhead transparency and read aloud the Scriptures in unison. (If copies of the Scripture verses were made, Scriptures are read aloud in unison by the learners from these copies.)

- Conclude this study and series by reading aloud Numbers 6:24-26.

Assignment:

- Group leader fills out the "As I See It" form in the back pages of this Group Study Guide.

STUDIES 1-12 RESOURCE

MY FATHER'S NAME'S CHART

Hebrew	**English**	**Bible Reference**	**Meaning**

STUDIES 1-12 RESOURCE

BOOK OF PSALMS READING GUIDE

The following reading guide is based on an 85-day reading plan.
Write a check in the box when you have read the designated psalms or verses for that day:

Day 1-Psalms 1, 2
Day 2-Psahns 3, 4
Day 3-Psalms 5, 6
Day 4-Psalms 7, 8
Day 5-Psalms 9, 10
Day 6-Psalms 11, 12
Day 7-Psalms 13, 14
Day 8-Psalms 15, 16
Day 9-Psalrns 17, 18
Day 10-Psalins 19, 20
Day 11-Psalms 21, 22
Day 12-Psalms 23, 24
Day 13-Psalms 25, 26
Day 14-Psalms 27, 28
Day 15-Psalms 29, 30
Day 16-Psalms 31, 32
Day 17-Psalins 33, 34
Day 18-Psalms 35, 36
Day 19-Psalms 3 7, 38
Day 20-Psalms 39, 40
Day29-Psalms 57, 58
Day 30-Psalms 59, 60
Day 31-Psalms 61, 62
Day 32-Psalms 63, 64
Day 33-Psalms 65, 66
Day 34-Psalms 67, 68
Day 35-Psalms 69, 70
Day 36-Psalms 71, 72
Day 37-Psalms 73, 74
Day 38-Psalms 75, 76
Day 39-Psalms 77, 78
Day 40-Psalms 79, 80
Day 41-Psalms 81, 82
Day 42-Psalms 83, 84
Day 43-Psalms 85, 86
Day 44-Psalms 87, 88
Day 45-Psalms 89, 90
Day 46-Psalms 91, 92
Day 47-Psalms 93, 94
Day 48-Psalms 95, 96
Day 70-Psalm 119:161-176
Day57-Psalms ll3,114
Day 58-Psalms 115, 116
Day 59-Psalms 11 7, 118
Day 60-Psalm 119:1-16
Day 61-Psalm 119:17-32
Day 62-Psalm 119:33-48
Day 63-Psalm 119:49-64
Day 64-Psalm 119:65-80
Day 65-Psalm 119:81-96
Day 66-Psalm 119:97-112
Day 67-Psalm 119:113-128
Day 68-Psalm 119:129-144
Day 69-Psalm 119:145-160
Day 7 1-Psalms 120, 121
Day 72-Psalms 122, 123
Day 73-Psalms 124, 125
Day 74-Psalms 126-128
Day 75-Psalms 129, 130
Day 76-Psalms 131, 132
Day 77-Psalms 133, 134

Day 21-Psalms 41, 42
Day 22-Psalms 43, 44
Day 23-Psalms 45, 46
Day 24-Psalms 47, 48
Day 25-Psalms 49, 50
Day 26-Psalms 51, 52
Day 27-Psalms 53, 54
Day 28-Psalms 55, 56

Day 49-Psalms 9 7, 98
Day 50-Psalms 99, 100
Day 51-Psalms 101, 102
Day 52-Psalms 103, 104
Day 53-Psalms 105, 106
Day 54-Psalms 107, 108
Day 55-Psalms 109, 110
Day 56-Psalms 111, 112

Day 78-Psalms 135, 136
Day 79-Psalms 137, 138
Day 80-Psalms 139, 140
Day 8 1-Psalms 141, 142
Day 82-Psalms 143, 144
Day 83-Psalms 145, 146
Day 84-Psalms 147, 148
Day 85-Psalms 149, 150

STUDY 1

Lesson Outline

I. Reasons for the Many Names of God

II. Reasons for Studying the Names of God

III. How Jews Used God's Name Throughout History
Exodus 3:15; 23:13; 25:8-22; Deuteronomy 12:5; Ruth 2:4

IV. Three Primary Names of God
Genesis 1:1; 2:4; 15:2

V. Three Compound Names for God
Genesis 2:4; 15:2; Daniel 9:3

VI. Hallowing the Name Today

Further Application and Study

Review your above notes under "Hallowing the Name Today" (or refer to this heading in chapter 1 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names).*

Which of the applications listed do you need to apply to your life? Select one and seek God's help to grow in this area this week.

God's compound name, LORD God is used in Scripture as redeeming humankind (see Gen. 3:815,21).

Using a Bible commentary discover how redemption is seen in Genesis 3:15. Or research in your Bible every cross-reference listed with this verse.

STUDY 2

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

The Caring Name of God

Lesson Outline

I. The LORD My Shepherd-Jehovah *Roi*
Psalm 23:1
A. Areas of need for protection.
B. How God meets these needs (see Matt. 28:20; John lO-4,10,11; Jas.4:7).

II. The LORD Shall Provide-*Jehovah-jireh*
Psalm 23:2; Genesis 22:14
A. Areas of need for food, physically and spiritually.
B. How God meets these needs (see Matt. 6:25-33; John 6:35; Phil. 4:18,19).

III. The LORD [Our] Peace-*Jehovah Shalom*
Psalm 23:3; Judges 6:23
A. Areas of unsettled emotions.
B. How God meets these needs (see Isa.26:3; 30:15; Rom.5:l; Phil.4:6,7).

III. The LORD [Our] Healer-*Jehovah Rophe*
Psalm 23:3; Exodus 15:26
A. Areas of need for physical and spiritual wholeness.
B. How God meets these needs, preventively and correctively
(see 1 Cor. 6:18; Phil. 4:8; 2 Tim. 2:22; Matt. 12: 1 5; Heb. 13:8; Jas. 5:14-16).

IV. The LORD Our Righteousness-*Jehovah Tsidkenu*
Psalm 23:3; Jeremiah 23:6
A. Areas of guilt.
B. How God meets these needs (see Rom. 3:22; 5:1; 8:33,34; 2 Cor. 5:21).

V. The LORD My Banner-*Jehovah Nissi*
Psalm 23:4; Exodus 17:15
A. Areas of fear.
B. How God meets these needs (see Josh.1:9; Ps.60:12; John l4:27; Eph.6:10,11 ;1 John 4:4).

VII. The LORD Is There-*Jehovah Shammah* Psalm 23:4; Ezekiel 48:35
A. Areas of loneliness.
B. How God meets these needs (see Matt. 28:20; John l4:18; Rom.12:10;
1 Thess. 5: 11; Rev. 3:20).

VIII. The LORD that Sanctifies-*Jehovah Mekaddishkhem*

Psalm 23:5; Exodus 31:13

A. Areas of moral or spiritual uncleanness/defilement.

B. How God meets these needs (see Phil. 4:13; 1 John 2:1,2; 3:2).

STUDY 3

ALMIGHTY GOD

The God Who Supplies My Needs

Lesson Outline

I. Almighty God: *El Shaddai*
   A. Compound name-El and *Shaddai or shad* (see Gen. 17:l; 49:25; Job 3:12; Ps. 22:9).
   B. In ministry to:
      1. Abraham (see Gen. 15:3-5; 21:1-5).
      2. Job (see Job 5:17).

II. Three Things to Remember About Problems
   A.

   B.

   C.

III. Six Guidelines (Principles) to Problem Solving
   A. Separate yourself from sin (negative holiness; see 2 Col. 6:17,18).

   B. Seek El Shaddai's presence (positive holiness; see 1 Chron.16:11; Rev.4:8).

   C. Rest in the presence of El Shaddai (see Ps. 27:14; 91:1).

   D. Follow the directions of El Shaddai (see Gen. 17:1).

   E. Evaluate your spiritual health (see Ruth 1:20,21; Heb. 12:5-11).

   F. Claim the provision of El Shaddai (see Gen. 49:25; 1 Thess. 5:24).

Further Application and Study

Research and review the Scriptures listed in the above outline under "Almighty God: *El Shaddai.”*

From which of the two aspects of El Shaddai-El or Shaddai *(shad)* do you need God's ministry? List one way you plan to respond to this aspect of God's character regarding your personal need.

Research in your Bible the following experiences that the listed Bible people realized:

Hannah (see 1 Sam. 1:1-20);
David (see 2 Sam. 11-12:18);
Peter (see Acts 12:1-11).

Which of the two aspects of El Shaddai did God use in dealing with them?

STUDY 4

MOST HIGH GOD

Possessor of Heaven and Earth

Lesson Outline

I. Satan's Five-step Plan to the Place of God
Isaiah 14:12-14

   A. Ascend into heaven (see v. 13).
   B. Exalt his throne above the stars of God (see v. 13).
   C. Sit upon the mount of the congregation in the sides of the north (see v. 13).
   D. Ascend above the heights of the clouds (see v. 14).
   E. Be like the Most High (see v. 14).

II. Most High God: *El Elyon*

   A. In ministry to Abraham (see Gen. 14:1-24).
   B. In ministry to Nebuchadnezzar.
      1. Daniel 1:18-20-
      2. Daniel 2:46,47-
      3. Daniel 3:26-29-
      4. Daniel 4:34-37-
      5. Daniel 5:18-22-

Further Application and Study

In light of the truth that El Elyon is the Possessor of heaven and earth, are there specific areas in your life over which He should have greater control?

Discuss these areas with a trusted family member or friend, and ask this person to partner with you in prayer for God's help to submit these areas of your life to His ownership.

Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek (see Gen. 14:18-20).

Review Elmer L. Towns' writings on tithing in chapter 4 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names*, under the heading “Application of El Elyon.” Next, use a Bible concordance to do a definitive study on tithing.

Where do you stand on this aspect of stewardship?

STUDY 4
MOST HIGH GOD

Possessor of heaven and Earth

Name Callers

Research the Scripture references listed below that are assigned to you and your partner. Then in the space following each reference, write the name(s) or descriptive title(s) that Christ's enemies, those who were offended by Him, or who were unbelievers used in referring to or in addressing Him during His public ministry.

1. Matthew 13:55-57-

2. Matthew 27:62-64-

3. Mark 6:3-

4. Luke 4:22-24,28,29-

5. Luke 7:34-

6. John 4:9-

7. John 8:48-

8. John 9:24-

9. John 18:30-

10. John 19:5-

STUDY 5
THE EVERLASTING GOD

And the Secret Name of God

Lesson Outline

I. The Everlasting God: *El Olam*
Genesis 21:33; Psalm 90:2

A. The mysterious nature of God (see Rom. 11:33,34).

B. The hidden aspects of God (see 2 Kings 4:27; Ps. 10:1).

1. Differing views of scholars relating to Genesis 21:33.

2. Hidden truths of types and shadows (see John 3:14, 1 5; Gal. 4:22-30).

II. El Olam Seen and Described in Different Times

A. Specific period (see Exod 21:1-6; Lev. 25:46; 1 Sam. 1: 1-22).

B. Former time (see Josh. 24:2).

III. Attributes of God that are Impacted by His Everlastingness

A. Psalm 90:2-

B. Psalm 25:6-

C. Psalm 146:5,6-

D. Psalm 119:142-

E. Isaiah 26:4-

Further Application and Study

Are you struggling with the hidden or mysterious aspects of God as El Olam? Do you need to respond to Him in faith regarding these areas?

Read Psalm 62:8 and in prayer share your struggles with God. Ask Him for His help to respond in faith and trust to all those aspects of Him that remain a mystery.

The New Testament application of El Olam is found in Ephesians 3:8.

Using a Bible commentary and cross-references in your Bible, do further study on the "unsearchable riches of Christ" (v. 8), and the secret purpose God has revealed to you (see vv. 1 0, 11).

STUDY 5

THE EVERLASTING GOD

And the Secret Name of God

To Know or Not to Know

Research the Scripture verses listed with the applications assigned to your group. Next, answer the co responding questions.

APPLICATIONS

1. *The secret of God gives new meaning to trusting.*
   Deuteronomy 29:29; Hebrews 11: 1.
   How can we trust a God who hides things from us? (see Ps. 34:8; Jer. 29: 11; John 20:29).

2. *The silence of God gives new meaning to the voice of God.*
   How may a Christian make good consistent decisions in areas where God remains silent? (see Rom. 1: 18-20; 2: 1 5; Heb. 1: 1,2).

3. *What God withholds gives new meaning to the revelation of God.*
   How is the Christian blessed by the promises of Mark 4:10-12 and 1 Corinthians 2:9,10?

4. *We are only responsible for what we know about God.*
   Romans 2:12; 1 Corinthians 2:12-14.
   In light of the principle of The Burden of Knowledge, how should we live for God? (see Eph. 5:8; 2 John 6).

STUDY 6
MIGHTY GOD

And the Strong Names of God

Lesson Outline

Introduction:

A. Name Israelites called on in battle-

B. Names Israelites called on when weak or discouraged-

I. Strength Names

A. *El Gibbor*. Mighty God.
Deuteronomy 10: 1 7; Psalm 24:8; Isaiah 9:6.

B. *Abir*. Mighty and Strong.
Genesis 49:24; Psalm 132:2,5; Isaiah 1:24; Romans 7:24-8:4.

C. *Tsur*. Rock.
Deuteronomy 32:4,15,18,30,31.

II. Three Principles of Protection

A.

B.

C.

Further Application and Study

The third principle of protection listed above is: “Protection begins with a relationship, not a rabbit's foot.”

Have you been using God's Word as a good-luck charm instead of establishing a day-to-day relationship with Him? If yes, consider prayerfully how you may effect a change.

Research in Scripture, verses that deal with God's strength. Check a Bible concordance for references listed under the following words:

might and mighty
power and powerful
strong and strength

STUDY 6

MIGHTY GOD

And the Strong Names of God

Name Power

Review your notes of the “Strength Names” of God listed under the first point on your outline. Then answer only questions 1 and 2 that are listed below with the name assigned to your group.

A. ***El Gibbor***

1. What aspect of God's strength is emphasized in the name El Gibbor?

2. How does this impact our understanding of God's ability in dealing with our problems?

3. List one problem you have been reluctant to turn over to God because you failed to understand this aspect of His strength?

B. ***Abir***

1. What makes the name Abir unique among the strong names of God?

2. What does this tell us about God's power in our lives?

3. List one area of your life where you need to apply the Abir strength of God?

C. ***Tsur***

1. What aspects of God's strength are emphasized by the name Tsur?

2. How does this name of God make a difference in a believer's life today?

3. List a situation you are presently facing in which you need to turn to God as Tsur?

STUDY 7
KING

The Throne Name of God

Lesson Outline

I. Isaiah's Vision of the King
Isaiah 6:1-8
A.
B.
C.

II. Kingship in Israel: Two-fold Significance

A. Functional (see Ps. 60:7; Isa. 33:22; 1 Kings 3:16-27; 4:1-34).
1.
2.
3.

B. Symbolic (see 1 Sam. 10:25; Ps. 2:6).
1.
2.

III. Other Kingly Terms

A. Reign (see Ps. 93:1; 97:1; 99:1; Prov. 21:1).

B. Throne (see Ps. 11:4; Isa. 66:1; Rev. 4:2-4).

1. Subordinate thrones of the house of David (see Ps. 122:5).
2. Thrones of spiritual authority (see Col. 1:16).

Further Application and Study

Is there an area of your life that you need to submit to the rulership of Christ?

List the changes that you must make in order to bring this about. Then in prayer, ask God's help so that His rulership will be realized in your life.

Using a Bible concordance and commentary, do a study on ways the present Kingdom of God is different from the future millennial (1,000 year reign) kingdom of Israel.

Key Bible passages to research include: Isaiah 11; 56:1-8; 60; Jeremiah 23:5-8; 31:31-40; Ezekiel 11:16-20; 37; Daniel 7:9,10,13,14; Matthew 5:3-12; 6:9,10,33; 7:21; 13; 16:28; 18; 24:30; Luke 12:32; John 3:3; Romans 11:1-32; Revelation 20:4-6.

STUDY 7

KING

The Throne Name of God

Throne-room Principles

Research the Scripture verses in the section (A-C) assigned to your group. Then complete numbers 1-3 in that section.

A. Father/King Relationships-Matthew 6:9-13

1. List aspects that speak of God as our Father and of God as our King.

2. Do believers today have struggles with either of these “contradictory" images of God? If yes, why?

3. How may we harmonize these "contradictory" images of God in our lives?

B. Worthy of Our Worship-John 4:23,24

1. How does worship involve all three of the following aspects of our personality: emotion, intellect and will?

2. How may worship be demonstrated in our lives?

3. Elmer L. Towns writes in chapter 7 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names*, “Much of modem worship is coined in the phrase 'celebration.'...Celebration may be man-centered; but worship is God-centered." Do you agree with these statements? Why or why not?

C. Subjects of the King-Matthew 5:3-10, 21-47, 6:33; 7:21; John 3:3,16,17

1. How did Jesus eliminate the exclusivism of the Jews in the Old Testament? (see John 3:3,16,17).

2. What are some virtues of the Kingdom? (see Matt.5:3-10,21-47).

3. How may we conform our inner life to "Kingdom life" today? (see Matt. 6:33).

STUDY 8
THE LORD OF HOSTS

Jehovah Saboath
The Militant Name of God

Lesson Outline

I. Angels in Ministry to Believers

- A. Hebrews 1:13,14
  - 1. Acts 8:26
  - 2. Acts 27:23,24
  - 3. Luke 16:22; 2 Corinthians 5:8
- B. Psalm 91:11,12
  - 1. Matthew 2:13
  - 2. Acts 12:7, 12

II. The Use of "Jehovah Saboath-the Lord of Hosts"

- A. I Samuel 1:1-3
- B. I Samuel 4:1-4
- C. I Samuel 17:45
- D. Isaiah 6:3
- E. Isaiah 10:24,26
- F. Haggai 2:4-11, 23
- G. Malachi 3:10,11

Further Application and Study

Review the Scriptures listed under the second point of the outline (A-G).

Pinpoint one area in your life where you need God's intervention as Jehovah Saboath.

Next, determine to trust God to fight in your behalf and to bring victory to your situation.

Research the following Scripture passages regarding difficult situations or battles God's people faced. Next, discover the reasons why they experience victory or defeat.

Joshua 7:1-26
Ruth 1:1-5
Jeremiah 37
Luke 22:54-62

STUDY 9

THE LORD/MASTER
Adonai
The Headship Name of God

Lesson Outline

I. Lord/Master: *Adonai*

   A. Description of name.
   B. Reason rabbis substituted the name Adonai for *Jehovah.*
   C. Twofold meaning of Adonai.
   D. Master's responsibilities to his slave.

II. The Master/Slave Relationship

   A. Heart of Christianity.
   B. Three things this relationship assures for believers.
      1.
      2.
      3.

III. Bible People Who Called upon the Master/Servant Relationship
   A. Abraham (see Gen. 15: 1-8; note especially w. 2,8).
   B. Moses (see Exod. 3:1-4:10; note especially 4:10).
   C. Gideon (see Judg. 6:1-16; note especially w. 13, 15).
   D. Manoah (see Judg. 13:1-8; note especially v. 8).
   E. Samson (see Judg. 16:1-30; note especially v. 28).
   F. David (see 2 Sam. 7:1-29; note especially w. 18,25,28,29).
   G. Jeremiah (see Jer. 1: 1- 19; note especially v. 6).

Further Application and Study

Review the “especially note” verses listed in the third point of the above outline (A-G) as well as the Scriptures that reveal how God met the needs of these Old Testament characters.

Throughout the coming week draw strength from the truths of these passages so that you might realize victory in the areas of need in your life.

Compare today's study of the master/servant relationship with God, with the master/servant relationship recorded in Luke 17:7-10.

How does Adonai differ from the master in this story?

What similarities are there in David's prayer to God (see 2 Sam. 7:18) and the servant's response (see Luke 17:10)?

STUDY 9

THE LORD/MASTER

Adonai

The Headship Name of God

Facing Up
Where do you stand in your servant/master relationship with the Lord? Review the situation or problems listed in the first column. Next, make a check in the appropriate column to the right that best describes your response as a servant.

Situation or Problem	**Often**	**Sometimes**	**Never**
When fearful about a situation, I immediately call out to God for His help.			
Whenever I am rewarded or complimented for a job well done, my first thought is to acknowledge God's goodness and realize that I am undeserving of any honor He places upon me.			
When struggling with feelings of inadequacy, I look to God to make me strong where I am weak, knowing that through the gifts of the Holy Spirit, all is available to fulfill my			

tasks.			
When the Lord speaks to me, I am quick to obey His orders.			

Review your above responses. Where do you need to work on your servant/master relationship? In the space below, write one thing you plan to do to improve this relationship.

STUDY 10
GOD

The Strong Creator

Lesson Outline

I. *God: Elohim*
   A.
   B.

II. Who Is God?
   A. God is life.
      1. Joshua 3: 10; 1 Samuel 17:26-
      2. Colossians 1:17-
   B. God is a person.
      1. Exodus 3:7; Jeremiah 51:15-
      2. Genesis 6:6; Exodus 3:7,8; Pss 7:11; 103:8-13-
      3. Proverbs 21:1; Isaiah 59:1,2; Daniel 4:35-
   C. God is spirit.
      1. Isa. 31:3; John 1: 1, 14; 4:24; 2 Cor. 3:17-
      2. John 1: 18; Colossians 1: 1 5; 1 Timothy 1: 17-
   D. God is a self-existent being.
      1. Exodus 3:14-
      2. John 5:26-
   E. God is a unity.
      1. Deuteronomy 6:4-
      2. Isaiah 44:6-
   F. God is unchangeable.
      1. Numbers 23:19-
      2. 1 Samuel 15:10,11-
   G. God is unlimited in space and time.
      1. Isaiah 57:15-
      2. Genesis 21:33; Pss. 90:2; 102:27-

III. God Is Three-in-One

   A. Compound unity (see Gen. 1:26; 3:22; 11:7; Isa. 6:8).
   B. Old Testament "blessing" formulas (see Num. 6:24-26; Deut. 6:4; Isa. 6:3).
   C. Three names/three Persons (see Isa. 54:5).
   D. Old Testament distinctions between God and God (see Gen. 1:1,2; Ps. 2:7; Zech. 12:10).
   E. A clear statement (see Isa. 48:16).

STUDY 11

LORD

The Self-Existent God

Lesson Outline

I. Jehovah: LORD God Genesis 2:4
   A.
   B.

II. What Is the LORD Like?

   A. Moral attributes.
      1. He is holy (see Lev.11:44; Isa.6:3; John l7:11; lPet.1:15,16).
      2. He is love (see 1 John 3:16; 4:7,8,16).
      3. He is good (see Exod. 34:6,7; Deut. 30:5; Mark 10:18).

   B. Comparative attributes.
      1. He is omniscient-all-knowing (see Ps. 139:1-6; see also Ps. 147:5; 1 John 3:20).
      2. He is omnipresent-present everywhere (see Ps. 139:7-1 1; see also Jer. 23:23,24).
      3. He is omnipotent-all-powerful (see Ps. 139:12-16; see also Job 42:2; Matt. 19:26; John 6:19; Eph. 1: 19,20; 2 Tim. 2:13; Jas. 1: 13).

Further Application and Study

Reflect on the following five factors, which will assist you in getting to know God, that were discussed in the study's buzz groups: Faith; the Word of God; desire; living the Christian experience; and loving God.

Which one of the above factors do you need to implement into your life so that you may know God better? Take an initial step today to deepen your relationship with Him.

Research the following Scripture passages to discover further positive aspects of God's omnipresence in the lives of Bible people:

Genesis 39
1 Kings 17:1-9
Daniel 3
Jonah 2, 3

Study 11

LORD

The Self-Existent God

Getting to Know God

1. Why is faith so important in getting to know God?

2. Why is knowing God's Word imperative to knowing Him?

3. How important is desire in knowing God?

4. How may living out our Christian experience help us to know God better?

5. How does loving God result in getting to know Him better?

STUDY 12
THE FATHER

The Intimate Name for God

Lesson Outline

I. Christ's Favorite Title for God: Father-Pater Matthew 6:9

A. Jews' misunderstanding of this title.
B. Jesus' first recorded reference to God as Father (see Luke 2:49).
C. The fatherhood of God in relation to the Trinity (see John 14:26; 15:26).
D. Spiritual kinship of believers (see John 1: 12; 13:33; Gal. 3:26; Philem. 1, 7; 2 John 13).
E. Terms used for God in New Testament Scriptures.

II. Privileges of the Father's Children
A. 1 John 1:3-
B. Romans 8:15; Hebrews 4:16-

III. Provisions of the Father
A. Psalm ll9:105; Proverbs3:5,6; John l6:13; Acts 24:16; Romans 2:15-
B. Romans 8:35-39-
C. Romans 8:17-
D. John 3:36; Romans 8:14-16; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 5:22,23-
E. Luke 11:13-
F. John 10:28,29-
G. Matthew 6:30-32-

Further Application and Study

Has God's perfect role model of fathering pointed up areas of weakness in the life of your earthly father or in your own life as a father? Remember that there is only one perfect father-our heavenly Father.

Determine to be forgiving of any shortcomings in the life of your earthly father. And if you are a father, ask God for His help to fulfill the role of a father He has designed for you.

Research the following Old Testament Scripture passages to discover instances when God is called or referred to as Father:

Deuteronomy 32:6
I Chronicles 29:10

Psalm 68:5; 89:26
Isaiah 63:16; 64:8
Jeremiah 3:4,19

My

Father's Names

The Old Testament

Names of God and How They Can Help You Know Him More Intimately

- Twelve 9-minute video introductions to the study of *My Father's Names.*
- Leader's Video Outlines of the video presentations that offer directives and steps for conducting each study.
- Reproducible outlines of the video presentations for members' use.
- Discussion questions provided on the outlines to enhance interaction.

Elmer L. Towns

GUIDELINES FOR USING THE VIDEO
My Father's Names

The video, *My Father's Names,* features Elmer L. Towns presenting an introduction to each of the studies in the 8- to 12-week course, *My Father's Names* (see Advance Preparations below). Dr. Towns' 9-minute introduction to each study gives the lesson highlights and presents questions for group discussion.

MATERLALS NEEDED

1. Video tapes 1 and *2-My Father's Names.*

2. Regal book, *My Father's Names,* by Elmer L. Towns. Have available sufficient copies so that each group member may have his or her own copy.

3. Leader's Video Outline one for each of the 12 studies introduced on the video. As well as being an outline of Elmer Towns' video presentation, each outline also gives directives and steps for conducting each study. The missing words (blank spaces) on Bible Student Video Outlines are provided and underlined on the leader's outlines.

4. Bible Student Video Outline-one for each study is provided for you to photocopy for each group membeL Distribute the outlines *following* each tape showing. Encourage learners to take notes on their outlines and fill in the blank spaces as the Bible study progresses. Permission is granted to reproduce the Bible Student Video Outlines for Bible study use only.

5. Additional Materials-extra Bibles, pencils or pens and, if desired, Bible commentaries and dictionaries.

ADVANCE PREPARATIONS

1. The Meeting Place-be careful to check out your room or other meeting place before members arrive. Arrange seating so that everyone can easily see the screen. You will also want to be certain that the videocassette player is working and the tape is properly cued.

2. The Lesson-remember, the video is designed only as an introduction to each study. Prepare a Bible study (40-50 minutes) using material from the corresponding chapter of the Regal book, *My Father's Names.* Use the Bible Study section from the Leader's Video Outline as a guide to you preparation. Present the Bible study following each tape showing.

Note: You may want to review the Study Plans at the front of this *Group Study Guide* for additional discussion questions and methods to incorporate in your lesson presentations. The Study Plans are not designed to be used with the videotape series, but may be helpful resources as you prepare to use the videotapes.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

It is recommended that you use the video discussion questions at the conclusion of your study, not immediately following the tape showing. You will also want to inject questions, which you feel address the specific needs of your group, throughout the study.

FOR FEWER THAN 12 STUDIES

Perhaps your time schedule does not allow for 12 separate studies of *My Father's Names.* This study can be easily adapted to fit a schedule of as few as eight lessons. In the article "My Father's Names, Course Overview" found in the front pages of this *Group Study Guide,* you will find suggestions (see heading "Adapting This Course for Fewer Studies") on how you may do this.

REGAL BOOK

For added ways you and your group members can use the Regal book, by Dr. Elmer E. Towns, in your study of *My Father's Names,* refer to the article, "How to Use the Group Study Guide and Regal Book, *My Father's Names'* found in the front pages of this *Group Study Guide* (see heading "Regal Book").

Leader's Video Outline

Hallowed Be Thy Names

Study 1

Materials Needed:

- Videocassette player and monitor, and tape 1 of *My Father's Names* video;
- One copy of the Study 1 Bible Student Video Outline for each group member;
- Sufficient copies of the Regal book, *My Father's Names,* by Elmer L. Towns, for group members to purchase.

Advance Preparations:

- Read the article, "Guidelines for Using the Video, *My Father's Names,"* which appears on the two pages preceding the Leader's Video Outlines;
- In the video series, Elmer L. Towns uses the more familiar term for 'the LORD [Our] Healer," which is *Rapha.* In the Regal book, *My Father's Names,* the most recent translation, Rophe, is used. Refer to chapters 1 and 2 of the Regal book.

Study Goals:

- Gain an understanding of how God reveals Himself in His names;
- Discuss how a better understanding of God's names can lead to a deeper relationship with Him.

Step 1: Before the Showing

- Prior to the study, cue the tape to the Introduction titled, 'The Names of God in the Old Testament." The Introduction is followed by Lesson/chapter 1 titled, "Hallowed Be Thy Names." This segment correlates with the Introduction and chapter 1 in the Regal book, *My Father's Names.*
- Ask members to watch for: (1) Reasons for studying the names of God; and (2) God's three primary names;

- Read aloud Genesis 17:1 and 1 Corinthians 13:12.

Step 2: Show Tape (9 minutes)

Step 3: Bible Study

- Distribute a Bible Student Video Outline to each member. Encourage note-taking and the filling in of the blank spaces on their outlines as the study progresses;

- Present study, using the following outline.

A. How Do We Know What God Is Like?

1. By Creation, miracles, laws, our conscience and His names.

2. We need to examine every source that tells us about God to fully understand His attributes and nature.

B. Why Study the Names of God?

- We understand people by their names and titles.
- David's names and titles give us a greater understanding of him (see 1 Sam. 16:1,11,18,19; 2 Sam. 23:1; 1 Chron. 11:1-3; 17:10-17; Ps. 72:20).

1. To understand His <u>character</u>.

2. To know the different ways we relate to Him.

   a. Abraham's relationship with God was affected by a revelation of God's names (see Gen. 13:4; 14:18,19; 15:2; 17:1,2; 21:33; 22:14).

   b. We use names today to describe specific relationships in life, such as: sweetheart, wife, mother, son, etc.

3. To realize He is the source to solving our problems.

4. To teach us to look to Him in our problems.

6. To cause us to <u>grow</u>.

C. The Three Primary Names of God

1. Elohim-Creator God (All-powerful Creator; 1:1).

2. Jehovah-LoRD, Covenant Keeper (Self-existent One; 2:4).

3. *Adonai-Lord*, Master (Lord, our Master; 15:2).

D. The Compound Names of God

1. LORD God-Jehovah Elohim (2:4).

2. Lord GOD-Adonai Jehovah (1 5:2).

3. Lord God-Adonai Elohim (Dan. 9:3).

E. How the Jews Used God's Name

1. The name of God was associated with God's <u>presence</u> or <u>power</u> (see Deut. 12:5; Isa. 18:7). The Jews would not say the names of false gods (see Exod. 23:13; josh. 23:7).

2. The name of God was used with personal greetings, 'The LORD *be* with you," and "The LORD bless thee" (Ruth 2:4).

3. The name Jehovah became too holy to pronounce.

4. During the Maccabean uprising in the second century B.C., the Jews were prohibited from using the Lord's name. When they gained independence, they used it in documents.

5. Jesus introduced a new name for LORD God in the New Testament (see Luke 11:1-4).

F. Practical Applications

1. We are forbidden to use His name in cursing (see Exod. 20:7).

2. We seek God by studying His name (see Ps. 46: 10; John 1: 12).

3. We gain knowledge about ourselves through His name (see Gen. 1:27).

4. We gain life from God through His name (see John 17:3; Acts 4:12).

Step 4: Discussion

- Think of the name(s) of God you use when praying to Him.

A. What names do you use in talking to Him?

B. Why do you call God by certain names?

C. What can you learn about yourself by the names you give to Him?

Step 5: Assignment

Ask members to review this study by reading the Introduction and chapter 1 of *My Father's Names*, and to prepare for the next study by reading chapter 2.

Leader's Video Outline

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

Jehovah Roi

The Caring Name of God

Study 2

Materials Needed:

- Videocassette player and monitor, and tape I of *My Father's Names* video;
- One copy of the Study 2 Bible Student Video Outline for each group member.

Study Goals:

- Gain a deeper understanding of the eight names of God as illustrated in Psalm 23;
- Select one aspect of God's shepherding ministry that will meet a need in your life. Next, list one way you will respond to this aspect of His ministry.

Step 1: Before the Showing

Prior to the study, cue the tape to Lesson 2 titled 'The Names of God in the Old Testament, the LORD Is My Shepherd.' This segment correlates with chapter 2 in the Regal book, *My Father's Names.*

Ask members to give attention to: (1) How we are like sheep; and (2) eight actions of God as our Shepherd that are recorded in Psalm 23.

- Read aloud Psalm 23.

Step 2: Show Tape (9 minutes)

Step 3: Bible Study

- Distribute a Bible Student Video Outline to each member. Encourage note-taking and the filling in of the blank spaces on their outlines as the study progresses;
- Present study, using the following outline.

A. Review

1. *Elohim*-Creator God (All-powerful Creator).

2. *Jehovah-LoRD,* Covenant Keeper (Self-existent One).

3. Adonai-Lord, Master (Lord, our Master).

B. Introduction

1. The LORD is my shepherd, *Jehovah Roi*. Jehovah (LORD) means “covenant keeping," and Roi refers to "care, watchfulness, concern."

2. First Bible reference to God as a shepherd, 'The God which fed [shepherded] me all my life long' (Gen. 48:15).

3. Sheep are ignorant, directionless and selfish. People are like sheep (see Isa. 53:6; see also Ps. 14:2,3).

C. Eight Actions of My Jehovah-Shepherd

1. *Jehovah Roi*, 'The LORD is my shepherd' (Ps. 23:1).
   He (and anyone He has commissioned to pastor/teach in the Church) shepherds us by:

   a. Leading (example; see John lO:4; l Pet.2:21; l John l:7);

   b. Feeding (teaching; see John 2l:17; Eph.4:11-13);

   c. Tending (protecting; see John lO:10,11; Acts 2O:28,29).

2. Daily provision-*jehovah-jireh* ("the LORD shall provide"), “I shall not want" (Ps. 23:1).

   a. The LORD provided a lamb for Abraham (see Gen. 22:14).

   b. God provided Himself through His Son Jesus Christ (see Zech. 12:10; John 1:29; 3:16).

3. Upset-*Jehovah Shalom* ("the LORD [our] Peace”), “He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters” (Ps. 23:2).

   a. When Gideon faced a challenge, he discovered God as Jehovah Shalom (see Judg. 6:2 24).

   b. Gideon gave Jehovah a new name (v. 24).

4. Hurt/sick-*Jehovah Rophe* (the LORD [our] Healer), “He restoreth my soul" (Ps. 23:3). Israel needed healing from the LORD (see Exod. 15:26).

   a. At Marah the waters needed healing (see w.,22-25).

b. We sometimes need physical, mental and spiritual healing.

(1) Preventive healing (see v. 25).
(2) Corrective healing (see v. 26).

5. Guilt-*jehovah Tsidkenu* (the LORD our Righteousness), “He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness" (Ps. 23:3).

a. We deserve the judgment or punishment of hell (see John 3:36; Rom. 6:23).
b. Through the LORD our Righteousness, we receive mercy, grace and righteousness (see Ps. 103:4; Jer. 23:6; Rom. 5:l; 1 Cor. 1:4).

6. Fear-*Jehovah Nissi* (the LORD my Banner), “Though I walk through the valley of death thou art with me" (Ps. 23:4).

a. The banner or flag was held high in battle.
b. The LORD was with Israel in their battle against Amalek (see Exod. 17:8-15). They needed:

(1) Faith to obey the Lord (see v. 9);

(2) Player as Moses held up his hand (see v. 1 1);

(3) Human ability to fight (see w. 9,13);

(4) Persistence to hold up Moses' hands (see v. 12).

7. Lonely-*Jehovah Shammah* (the LORD is there), “Thou art with me" (Ps. 23:4; see also Ezek. 48:35).

a. Rod was used as a club to beat off wild animals. The staff was a crook that rescued sheep in trouble.

b. Believers are comforted by the Good Shepherd's rod and staff (see Ps. 1 10:2-refers to the gospel; Heb. 12:5-1 1; 1 Pet. 2:25; Matt. 18:11-14).

b. God meets the need of loneliness (see Matt. 28:20; John 14:18; Rom.12:10; I Thess. 5:1 1; Rev. 3:20).

8. Sinful *Jehovah Mekaddishkhem* (the LORD that sanctifies), “Thou anointest my head with oil" (Ps. 23:5; see also Exod. 31:13).

a. Oil is used to clean, heal, soothe and replenish. It is a symbol of the Holy Spirit (see 1 Sam. 16:13; Isa. 61:1; Acts 10:38).

b. God meets the needs of moral or spiritual uncleanness and defilement (see Phil. 4:13; 1 John 2:1,2; 3:2).

D. Jesus Is Our Jehovah Roi

1. Jesus gives a shepherd's care (see John lO:3,4,10,11).

2. We can have a shepherding ministry under Christ as we lead, feed and tend other sheep. (see Eph. 4:11,12; 2 Tim. 2:24,25).

Step 4: Discussion

- Psalm 23 describes different aspects of the relationship between the LORD and His sheep.

A. Which relationship is most meaningful to you? Why?
B. Which relationship do you need to develop?
C. How will you do it?

Step 5: Assignment

Ask members to prepare for the next study by reading chapter 3 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names.*

Leader's Video Outline

ALMIGHTY GOD

El Shaddai

The God Who Supplies My Needs

Study 3

Materials Needed:

- Videocassette player and monitor and tape 1 of My Father's Names Video;
- One copy of the Study 3 Bible Student Video Outline for each group member.

Study Goals:

- Gain a deeper appreciation of the compassionate concern of God as reflected in the name El Shaddai.
- Discuss biblical principles relating to the character of El Shaddai that will help in solving personal problems. Then ask for God's help to apply one principle to an area of need in your life.

Step 1: Before the Showing

- Prior to the study, cue the tape to Lesson 3 titled "The Names of God in the Old Testament, El Shaddai." This segment correlates with chapter 3 in the Regal book, My Father's Names.
- Ask members to give attention to: (1) The two aspects of God's name, El Shaddai; and (2)six steps or guidelines for receiving El Shaddai's provision for solving problems.
- Read aloud Genesis 17:1 and 49:25

Step 2: Show Tape (9 minutes)

Step 3: Bible Study

A. Introduction

1. God is denim-strong enough to solve our problems.

2. God is lace-tender in His care for us.

B. The Meaning of Almighty God

1. The different names of God are a compound of *El (Elohim-God) or Jehovah* (LORD), plus an attribute.

a. *El* is the strong God/Creator.

b. *Shaddai* is His protection and sufficiency in time of pressure.

2. Shaddai and the Hebrew word for *shad,* meaning breast, are different words, but sound alike (see Gen. 49:25; job 3:12; Ps. 22:9).

a. The wordplay reminds us that God provides for us. He is our source of and His presence-positive holiness. "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty [El Shaddai]" (Rev. 4:8).

b. He loves us and is the true giver of His life to us in our problems. Out of our <u>pressure</u> we become <u>fruitful</u>.

2. El Shaddai appears 48 times in the Old Testament, which includes 31 times in the book of Job.

a. Under pressure, Job called on the names of a tough-but-tender caring God.

b. Job was counseled, "Happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty" (Job 5:17)

4. El Shaddai occurs 12 times in the New Testament, which includes 9 times in the book of Revelation (see 2 Cor. 6:18; Rev. 1:8). He is faithful to:

a. Reward the believer (see Rev. 11:15-18);

b. Pour out judgment on the unbeliever (see v. 18).

C. Law of First Reference

1. Definition-

2. God appears to Abram after long testing (see Gen. 15-1 7:2).

a. Abram is 99 years old (see 17:1) and 'as good as dead' (Heb. 11:12).

b. God reassures Abram of His promise (see Gen. 17:1,2).

c. God introduced a new name for Himself-El Shaddai ("Almighty God," v. 1).

3. New problems demand a new understanding of God, which is received by learning a new name for Him (see Exod. 3:13,14; 6:2,3).

4. Abraham (name changed from Abram; see Gen. 17:5) was supernaturally given a son, conceived at age 99 (see w. 1,2), born at age 100 (see w. 15- 17; 21:2). We need faith to carry us from His promise to His supply.

D. El Shaddai: He Strengthens and Satisfies

1. The promise passed on.
   a. It is evident Abraham passed the name El Shaddai to Isaac, who later used it in his prayer for his son Jacob to find a wife (see 28:3).

   b. Jacob used the name to bless his son Joseph (see 49:22,25).

2. God is faithful to His nature (see 1 Thess. 5:24).

   a. To when we rebel (see Heb. 12:5,6,10). b. To when we obey (see Ps. 1: 1-3).

3. El Shaddai may delay, but He never postpones.

E. Six Steps for El Shaddai's Provision

What we know about problems: We can't run from them; we can't stop them; and we can't solve them. We need the help of El Shaddai.

1. Separation-negative holiness (see 2 Cor. 6:17,18

2. Seek His presence-positive holiness (see 2 Chron. 16:11; Rev. 4:8).

3. Rest in His presence or promise (see Ps. 91:1)

4. Continue to follow and obey His commands (see Gen. 17:1).

5. Evaluate your spiritual health.

   a. If you do not sense that god is using hardships to move you closer to Him or to reveal unconfessed sin, it may indicate that you are not really His child (see Heb. 12:5-11).
   b. Naomi and her husband Elimelech disobeyed God by leaving Israel during a time of famine (see Ruth 1:1,2).

(1) Elimelech and sons die in Moab (see vv. 3,50.
(2) Naomi returns to Israel empty (see vv. 19-210.

6. Claim by faith His promise (see Gen. 49:25).

Step 4: Discussion

A. Share with the group a time when the Almighty helped or corrected you.
B. What did you learn from this experience?
C. What did you learn about God?

Step 5: Assignment

- Ask members to prepare for the next study by reading chapter 4 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names*

Leader's Video Outline

MOST HIGH GOD

El Elyon

Possessor of Heaven and Earth

Study 4

Materials Needed:

- Videocassette player and monitor, and tape 1 of My Father's Names video;
- One copy of the Study 4 Bible Student Video Outline for each group member;
- New King James Version of the Bible.

Study Goals:

- Gain an understanding of the implications of the names of God as El Elyon;
- Submit your life and assets to God's ownership.

Step 1: Before the Showing

- Prior to the study, cue the tape to Lesson 4 titled "The Names of God in the Old Testament, El Elyon." This segment correlates with chapter 4 in the Regal book, My Father's Names.
- Ask members to give attention to: (1) The meaning of El Elyon; and (2)why the devil and demons use this name.
- Read aloud Genesis 14:18-20

Step 3: Bible Study

- Distribute a Bible Student Video Outline to each member. Encourage note-taking and the filling in of the blank spaces on their outlines as the study progresses;
- Present study, using the following outline.

A. The Superlative God

1. Meaning. El Elyon means "Most High" or "Most High God.' El is Elohim-"Strong Creator," and Elyon is "Highest."

   a. This is the superlative-high, higher, highest. God is Founder or "possessor of heaven and earth' (v. 19).

   b. God is not limited to a man-made temple (see Acts 7:48).

2. Gentiles. El Elyon is identified primarily with-Gentiles (i.e. the earth; see Deut. 32:8) rather than with Jews (i.e. the Promise Land).

3. The devil. This title first used by the devil, Lucifer (see Isa. 14:12-14).

   a. “I will ascend into heaven."
   b. "I will exalt my throne.”
   c. "I will sit in the north."
   d. "I will ascend above the clouds.”
   e. "I will be like the most High [El Elyon].”

4. Demons. El Elyon is used by fallen angels.

   a. Legion (see Mark 5:7,9).
   b. Servant girl (see Acts 16:16,17, NKIV).
   c. Demons recognize Christ as Possessor or Authority (see Matt. 8:31; Mark 1:24; Acts 19:15, Jas. 2:19).
   d. Why? Demons do not want to be in submission to God, but to possess heaven and earth.

5. Daniel's favorite name for God (see Dan. 4:17,24; 5:18).

6. The name Most High God occurs 52 times in Scripture.

B. Law of First Reference

1. Gentile king. Melchizedek, king of Salem met Abraham and gave him food (see Gen. 14:17,18).

   a. Salem later became Jerusalem--'city of peace' (see Heb. 7:2).
   b. Although a Gentile king, he was a believer in El Elyon.

2. Gentile priest. "He *was* the priest of the most high God" (Gen. 14:18).

   a. As Salem was in central Canaan, he was probably a Canaanite king/priest.

b. It was natural that he used the name associated with the Gentiles-El Elyon. He had great faith in God and worshiped Him (see v. 20).

c. Abraham paid tithes to him (see v. 20).

3. Melchizedek is Christ.

Some have thought this is a Christophany-an appearance of Christ and in fact Christ.

a. Without father/without mother (see Heb. 7:3).
b. Bread and wine/Lord's Table (see 1 Cor. 10:16,21).
c. Received tithes (see Gen. 14:20).
d. Christ a priest after Melchizedek's order (see Ps. 110:4; Heb. 5:10).
e. King of righteousness (see Heb. 7:2).

4. Melchizedek is a type.

a. No lineage (Heb. 7:3; Luke 2:48-50; John 1:2).
b. Name is throne title (see Heb. 7:2).
c. Never identified as God.

5. <u>Possession</u> is the issue when Abraham meets two kings.

a. He refused to compromise (see Gen. 14:21-24).
b. He paid tithes to Melchizedek (see v. 20).

C. Interpreting El Elyon

1. <u>The nations</u> belong to the Most High (see Deut. 32:8).

a. The world (see Exod. 9:29).
b. People/groups (see Ps. 24: 1).

2. <u>Moses</u> sought El Elyon while wandering in the wilderness and wrote, "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty" (9 1: 1).'

3. <u>David</u> prayed to the Most High when a fugitive outside the Promised Land, “I will sing praise to thy name, 0 thou most High” (9:2).

4. Why did Daniel use this name? (see Dan. 3:26; 4:24).

a. He was outside the Promise Land (see 1:1,3,6).

b. The Temple destroyed (see 2 Chron. 36:19).

c. Gentiles controlled Israel (see 2 Kings 25:21-24). He recognized God as the Possessor of heaven and earth.

D. Application of El Elyon

1. Substitute principle. Satan has two desires:

   a. To be against God (see Isa. 14:12-14);
   b. To be in the place of God (see Matt.4:1-11).

2. Process principle. Both the infilling of the Holy Spirit and possession by a demon are similar in process.

   a. A person may yield to either-the Spirit or a demon.
   b. The more one yields, the more one becomes filled.

3. Tithe principle. Tithing began with a Gentile ministry, and it is based on God's possession of heaven and earth (see Gen. 14:20).

4. The Jesus answer. The solution to gradual possession and exorcism is the name of Jesus (see Phil. 2:9, 10).

5. Possession principle. The Most High wants to possess us (see John 15:4,5; Rom. 12:1).

Step 4: Discussion

A. How can El Elyon help you in your Christian life?

B. How will you relate to God differently because of this lesson?

Step 5: Assigment

Ask members to prepare for the next study by reading chapter 5 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names.*

Notes

1. E.W. Bullinger, *7he Companion Bible* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing Co., 1974), p. 812.

2. Ibid., p. 728.

Leader's Video Outline

THE EVERLASTING GOD

El Olam

And the Secret Name of God

Study 5

Materials Needed:

- Videocassette player and monitor, and tape 1 of *My Father's Names* video;
- One copy of the Study 5 Bible Student Video Outline for each group member.

Study Goals:

- Gain a deeper appreciation of the mystery surrounding the eternal God;
- Identify an area in your life where you are struggling with the hidden or mysterious aspects of God as *El Olam.* Next list one specific way you will respond in faith regarding this area.

Step 1: Before the Showing

- Prior to the study, cue the tape to Lesson 5 titled "The Names of God in the Old Testament, *El Olam."* This segment correlates with chapter 5 in the Regal book, *My Father's Names.*
- Ask members to give attention to: (1) Why God was revealed as El Olam at Beer-sheba; and (2) what we need to know about the silence of God.
- Read aloud Psalm 90:2.

Step 2: Show Tape (9 minutes)

Step 3: Bible Study

- Distribute a Bible Student Video Outline to each member. Encourage note-taking and the filling in of the blank spaces on their outlines as the study progresses;
- Present study, using the following outline.

A. Introduction

1. Reasons for keeping a secret.

2. Secret names.

3. Secret name of God.

   a. El is "Strong One."
   b. Olam is “age" or "hidden” *(Alam)*. 'From everlasting to everlasting, thou *art* God" (Ps. 90:2).

B. Beer-sheba: Place of Revelation

1. El Olam was first revealed to Abraham at the well Beer-sheba (see Gen. 21:22-33).

   a. The well was taken from Abraham (see v. 25).
   b. He secured it again. "I have digged this well" (v. 30).

2. Why God was revealed as the Everlasting God at Beer-sheba.

   a. The well represented squatters rights. This was the first symbol of occupying the Promised land. God promised Abraham:

      (1) Son (see 12:2);

      (2) Land (see v. 7; 17:7). Isaac was bom (see 21:1-8)fulfillment of the first promise, but the land did not yet belong to Abraham. This well was a symbol or act of faith in God's promise. 'The mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children' (Ps. 103:17).

   b. The well represented the secret name of God. God was doing mysterious things in the life of Abraham.

C. The God of Eternity

1. El Olam is the unchangeable God. 'Thy tender mercies *have been* ever [Olam] of old' (25:6).

2. Abraham called on El Olam at Beer-sheba because he needed to hang his hope on a God who was:

   a. Omniscient-all-knowing (see 44:21);

   b. Omnipresent-all-present (see Jer. 23:24);

c. Omnipotent-all-powerful (see Job 42:2).

D. The Secret Name of God

1. New Testament.

a. A dispensation is a mystery (see Eph. 3:2-6).

(1) This age-the Church age-is called the dispensation of the mystery, which is now made known.

(2) Unsearchable riches of Christ (see w. 8-1 1).

b. Olam means “hidden" *(Alam):* God has a purpose that is not yet known. In the New Testament, God has a purpose that was not known in the Old.

2. Mysterious periods of time divided into sevens: Seven days (see Exod. 12:15), seven weeks (see Deut. 16:9), seven months (see Ezek. 39:14), seven times seven years (see Lev. 25:8). God who has a secret name, El Olam, does secret things in our lives.

E. Application

1. The secret name of God gave new meaning to trust. "The secret *things belong* unto the LORD our God: but those *things which are* revealed *belong* unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law (Deut. 29:29).

a. Believers must trust in that which is revealed.

b. Believersmustwalkbyfaith(seeRom.1:17;Heb.11:1)

2. The silence of God gives new meaning to the voice of God.

a. God speaks through His nature (see Rom. 1:18-20).

b. God speaks through His Son (seeHeb.1:1,2).

c. God speaks through the conscience (see Rom. 2:14, 1 5).

Don't expect God to speak where He has already spoken.

3. The silence of God gives new meaning to the revelation of God.

a. The revealed Word of God.

b. Don't live by feelings but by the principles of His Word.

Step 4: Discussion

A. How have you felt when God did not answer your prayers?

B. Has God's silence influenced your faith? Why?

C. What should we know about the silence of God?

Step 5: Assignment

Ask members to prepare for the next study by reading chapter 6 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names.*

Leader's Video Outline

MIGHTY GOD

El Gibbor

And the Strong Names of God

Study 6

Materials Needed:

- Videocassette player and monitor, and tape 1 of *My Father's Names* video;
- One copy of the Study 6 Bible Student Video Outline for each group member.

Study Goals:

- Gain a deeper understanding of several names of God that reveal His strength;
- Identify an area where you need to yield to the protective power of God in your life. Next, enlist a friend to agree with you in prayer for victory in this area.

Step 1: Before the Showing

- Prior to the study, cue the tape to Lesson 6 titled 'The Names of God in the Old Testament, *El Gibbor."* This segment correlates with chapter 6 in the Regal book, *My Father's Names.*
- Ask members to give attention to: (1) The various strength names of God; and (2) how we may receive God's protection.
- Read aloud Psalm 24:8 and Isaiah 9:6.

Step 2: Show Tape (9 minutes)

Step 3: Bible Study

- Distribute a Bible Student Video Outline to each member. Encourage note-taking and the filling in of the blank spaces on their outlines as the study progresses;
- Present study, using the following outline.

A. The God of Strength

1. There are many strength names of God in Scripture: Mighty

God, Strong One, Fortress, the LORD my Strength, Rock and

Tower (see job 9:19; Ps. 18:2; Isa. 9:6).

2. The name *El Gibbor* means 'Mighty God.'

   a. The best known promise to Israel was given when they faced the possibility of losing a military battle, "For unto us a child is bom, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God [El Gibbor], The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isa. 9:6).

   b. The name El Gibbor was first applied to God by Moses, 'For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty [Gibborl, and a terrible" (Deut. 10: 1 7).

   c. The word Gibbor is an adjective to describe God (see Ps. 24:8).

3. The name Abir means “strong" or "mighty.”

   a. "The mighty God of Jacob" (Gen. 49:24).

   b. 'The mighty One of Israel" (Isa. 1:24).

4. The name *Tsur* means 'rock.'

   a. Five times in the song of Moses, God is referred to as the Rock (see Deut. 32:4,15,18,30,31).

   b. A rock provided protection from the sun, animals or a storm.

Application

1. God cannot protect what we won't give Him.

   a. We don't give to Him because we are <u>@a ped</u> W in the things that are ours-family, occupation, hobbies, etc.

      (1) All become a part of us.

      (2) All are an extension of our personalities.

   b. We don't give to Him because we are <u>selfish</u>.

      (1) We desire things, influence with people, and position.

(2) Negative motivation-all for ourselves.

c. We don't give to Him because we <u>own</u> it.

(1) We want to keep for ourselves what is ours (see Matt. 10:39).

(2) God demonstrated His love and protection for us by giving His Son (see John 3:16; 10: 10, 1 1).

d. We don't give to Him because we think we can protect it *better* than He can.

(1) Pride keeps us from seeking God's protection.

(2) We endeavor to play god by exerting our independence and self-sufficiency.

e. We don't give to Him because we are blind to the issues.

(1) Ignorant of God's blessings and protection.

(2) God wants all we have in order to enable us to act as His agents and stewards.

2. God won't work His way in our lives while we work out our

ways.

a. Victory comes through surrender (see Jas. 4:7,10).

b. When we have our hands on the steering wheel of our lives, we are in control, not God (see w. 13-15).

3. God's protection begins with a <u>relationship</u>, not a rabbit's foot. The principles of protection apply to our lives when:

a. They are claimed within the will of God (see v. 3, 15);

b. They are within the realm of what He has promised;

c. They are dependent upon the believer's walk with God;

(1) Know God's Word in order to claim His promises (see 2 Tim. 2:15).

(2) We are not exposed to certain dangers when we walk close to God.

Step 4: Discussion

A. What has God promised to protect in your life?

B. When can you not claim God's protection?

C. Give an illustration of one time God obviously protected you. What did you learn about God?

D. What lesson can you apply to your life because of today's study?

Step 5: Assignment

Ask members to prepare for the next study by reading chapter 7 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names.*

Leader's Video Outline

KING

Jehovah Melek

The Throne Name of God

Study 7

Materials Needed:

- Videocassette player and monitor, and tape 2 of *My Father's Names* video;
- One copy of the Study 7 Bible Student Video Outline for each group member.

Study Goals:

- Acquire a greater understanding of the authority and rule of God as our King;
- Acknowledge an area of your life that you need to submit to the rulership of Christ. Next, plan one change you must make in order to realize His rulership.

Step 1: Before the Showing

- Prior to the study, cue the tape to Lesson 7 titled "The Names of God in the Old Testament, *Jehovah Melek.* This segment correlates with chapter 7 in the Regal book, *My Father's Names.*
- Ask members to give attention to: (1) The twofold role of a king, and (2) how a person may enter the Kingdom of God.
- Read aloud Isaiah 33:22 and 66:1.

Step 2: Show Tape (9 minutes)

Step 3: Bible Study

- Distribute a Bible Student Video Outline to each member. Encourage note-taking and the filling in of the blank spaces on their outlines as the study progresses;
- Present study, using the following outline.

A. God Is Our King

1. Melek means 'King.'

Leader's Video Outline

The Lord of Hosts

Jehovah Sabaoth

The Militant Name of God

Study 8

Materials Needed:

- Videocassette player and monitor, and tape 2 of *My Father's Names* video;
- One copy of the Study 8 Bible Student Video Outline for each group member;
- One copy of the *New Intemational Version* (NIV) of the Bible.

Study Goals:

- · Gain a deeper understanding of the ministry *of Jehovah Sabaoth and* the angels of God;
- · Pinpoint an area of your life where you need God's intervention as Jehovah Sabaoth in order to realize victory.

Step 1: Before the Showing

- Prior to the study, cue the tape to Lesson 8 titled 'The Names of God in the Old Testament, *Jehovah Sabaoth."* This segment correlates with chapter 8 in the Regal book, *My Father's Names.*
- Ask members to give attention to: (1) Why the children of Israel needed to know God as Jehovah Sabaoth; and (2) how the tithing principle relates to Jehovah Sabaoth.
- Read aloud I Samuel 17:45.

Step 2: Show Tape (9 minutes)

Step 3: Bible Study

- Distribute a Bible Student Video Outline to each member. Encourage note-taking and the filling in of the blank spaces on their outlines as the study progresses;
- Present study, using the following outline.

A. Jehovah Sabaoth-the LORD of Hosts

1. Jehovah ("I AM THAT *I AM"-self-existent One;* Exod. 3:14) and Sabaoth mean God and LORD of the:

   a. Armies; or

   b. Angels (i.e. heavenly Hosts).

2. The term Jehovah Sabaoth is not found in the Pentateuch (Gen.-Deut.), Joshua or Judges. It is found mostly toward the end of the Old Testament-the Prophets.

   a. Fourteen times in Haggai.

   b. Fifty times in Zechariah.

   c. Twenty-five times in Malachi.

3. The name points people to a new relationship with Jehovah as it relates to:

   a. God's service.

   b. God's warfare.

B. Law of First Reference

1. First mentioned in 1 Samuel 1:3 when Ekanah and Hannah went to Shiloh 'to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts.'

   a. This term was not needed earlier because people rallied around the cause to conquer the Promised land.

   b. Now they needed to rally around the LORD of Hosts to give them victory in battle. Israel needed to know God was the LORD of Hosts who would fight for them.

2. Once in the land, Israel slipped into sin during the time of the judges (see Judg. 2:8-21; 21:25). The book of judges is a transitional book:

   a. From judges to kings;

   b. From defeat to victory;

   c. From a theocracy to a kingdom.

3. Israel asked for a king (see 1 Sam. 8:1-22). Not a choice of a man, but a rejection of God (see v. 7).

4. Israel called for the Ark of the Covenant (see 4:3).

   a. Their faith was in a piece of furniture as a good-luck charm.

   b. God's description, "the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth *between* the cherubims" (v. 4).

C. God Fights for Israel

1. Goliath challenges Israel's armies to battle (see 17:4-10).

   a. Saul's men were fearful and fled (see w. 11,23,24).

   b. Young David fought against Goliath, 'I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel" (v. 45).

2. The prophets point the people back to Jehovah Sabaoth, the LORD of Hosts (see Isa. 10:24,26; Hag. 2:4-11,23).

   a. As Israel lost her faith, she lost her battles.

   b. Although the armies of Israel were defeated, God and His angels were not.

D. Application

1. Jehovah Sabaoth brings heavenly power to the aid of His children.

   a. Joshua asked the stranger, "Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come" Uosh. 5:13,14).

      (1) Some believe this was a Christophany-Jesus Christ Himself.

      (2) The stranger came in Joshua's hour of need to encourage him.

   b. The name LORD of Hosts indicates the power with which God will help His children.

2. The LORD of Hosts is a guardian to prevent attacks.

a. Tithing is an obedient response to God by His children. It keeps the enemy away (see Mal. 3: 1 O,l 1).

b. Tithing was associated with the LORD of Hosts (see v. 10).

(1) Prove-yield/submit/obey.

(2) Me-God.

(3) Now-today's paycheck, not tomorrow's.

3. The LORD of Hosts rules the armies of heaven.

a. They will fight for the LORD and obey His will (see Matt. 26:53).

b. They will minister to believers (see Heb. 1:14, NIV).

Step 4: Discussion

A. How can we get the LORD of Hosts to protect us?

B. When can we expect the LORD of Hosts to protect us?

C. In what areas will we get protection?

Step 5: Assignment

Ask members to prepare for the next study by reading chapter 9 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names.*

Leader's Video Outfine

THE LORD/MASTER

The Headship Name of God

Study 9

Materials Needed:

- Videocassette player and monitor, and tape 2 of *My Father's Names* video,
- One copy of the Study 9 Bible Student Video Outline for each group member.

Study Goals:

- Receive a deeper understanding of the master/slave relationship that we have with God;
- Decide on one step you will take to improve this relationship.

Step 1: Before the Showing

- Prior to the study, cue the tape to Lesson 9 titled "The Names of God in the Old Testament, Adonai-Lord, Master." This segment correlates with chapter 9 in the Regal book, *My Father's Names.*
- Ask members to give attention to: (1) Responsibilities of the master regarding his slave; and (2) what the title *Adonai* assures the believer.
- Read aloud Judges 6:1,6,11-16 (note w. 13, 1 5).

Step 2: Show Tape (9 minutes)

Step 3: Bible Study

- Distribute a Bible Student Video Outline to each member. Encourage note-taking and the filling in of the blank spaces on their outlines as the study progresses;
- Present study, using the following outline.

A. The Third Name of God

1 . Three primary or major names of God: God *(Elohim);* LORD *(Jehovah); Lord/Master (Adonai).*

2. Adonai means Master/Lord (small letters).

3. The name Lord (Adonai) occurs 340 times in the Hebrew Old Testament. It is the name the rabbis used as a substitute for Jehovah, the name that was too holy to speak or write.

4. Adonai is from the word Adon (singular), which was used for men who were masters of slaves, or to denote a husband's relationship with his wife.

S. Adonai (plural) implies the Trinity and is used to refer to deity.

6. The name Adonai expresses a personal relationship between master and slave.

   a. For the master this implies:

      (1) Authority (control) by the master;

      (2) Lordship (ownership) over possessions;

      (3) Necessity of provision and direction for slaves.

   b. For the slave this implies:

      (1) Direction and decision;

      (2) Care for his needs;

      (3) Responsibility for him.

7. Relationship was one of love and allegiance, not an "Uncle Tom's Cabin" relationship.

   a. A slave could participate in Temple sacrifices and was a member of the household.

   b. Hired help was excluded from the privileges enjoyed by a slave.

The Master Relationship

1. The Christian is unique because he or she acknowledges a relationship with God. The world in practice denies it.

2. Adonai is a title that assures believers:

   a. The Master has resources and the ability to care for them;

   b. Help is available to assist them to carry out their tasks or duties as a servant of God;

c. They must call on the relationship to the Master to get the assistance needed.

3. Bible people who called upon the Master relationship.

a. Abram-when childless (see Gen. 15:2).

(1) His two burdens: A seed and an inheritance promised him (see 13:14-17). At this time he had neither.

(2) He prayed again, "Lord [Adonai] GOD, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?"(15:8). Abram goes to his Master for resources to carry out God's plans.

b. Moses-to carry out the task his Master Gehovah) had given him. "O my Lord [Adonai], I *am* not eloquent" (Exod. 4:10; see also 3:6-10).

c. Joshua-who led Israel into the Promised Land, prayed as a slave to his Master for help when Israel was defeated at Ai. "O Lord [Adonai], what shall I say, when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies!' Josh. 7:8; see also w. 1-7).

d. Gideon-who was fearful and with low self-esteem, prayed to God in a servant/master relationship. He asked for the assurance of victory in leading Israel against the Midianites (see Judg. 6:11-15).

e. Isaiah-who saw the Lord [Adonai] sitting on a throne after his hero King Uzziah died, needed to renew his relationship to Master/Adonai (see Isa. 6:1-10).

(1) Vision of God (see v. 1).

(2) Cleansed to speak (see v. 6).

(3) Commissioned for service (see w. 8,9).

f Jeremiah-a weak person who needed to be encouraged when he was called to be a servant of Adonai. 'Ah, Lord [Adonaij GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for *I am* a chfld" Ger. 1:6).

(1) God encouraged him (see w. 7,8).

(2) God commissioned him (see w. 7,9).

(3) God promised him success (see w. 9,10).

C. Our Master Relationship

1. The Old Testament Hebrew Adonai (Master) is the counterpart for the New Testament Greek *kufios* (Lord) (see John. 13:13).

2. As servants we are to submit to our Master (see Matt. 10:24,25).

3. Our Master wants to ultimately make us masters (see 25:21).

4. The title Adonai gives believers the privilege of having God as their Master whowill care for them (see Matt. 6:1 1; Rom 12:2-8).

Step 4: Discussion

A. What is the contemporary meaning of the name master?

B. What can God do for us as our Master?

C. How can we get God as our Master to help us?

Step 5: Assignment

Ask members to prepare for the next study by reading chapter 10 of

the Regal book, *My Father's Names.*

Leader’s Video Outline

GOD

Elohim

The Strong Creator

Study 10

Materials Needed:

- Videocassette player and monitor, and tape 2 of *My Father's Names* video;
- One copy of the Study 10 Bible Student Video Outline for each group member.

Study Goals:

- Gain a fuller understanding of the name of God, *Elohim;*
- Apply a truth or aspect of God's nature to a situation or need in your life.

Step 1: Before the Showing

- Prior to the study, cue the tape to Lesson 10 titled 'The Names of God in the Old Testament, God/Elohim.' This segment correlates with chapter 10 in the Regal book, *My Father's Names.*
- Ask members to give attention to: (1) How the Trinity is seen in the names for God in the
- Old Testament; and (2) the various aspects of God's nature that define who God is.
- Read aloud Genesis 1:1 and Deuteronomy 6:4.

Step 2: Show Tape (9 minutes)

Step 3: Bible Study

- Distribute a Bible Student Video Outline to each member. Encourage note-taking and the filling in of the blank spaces on their outlines as the study progresses;
- Present study, using the following outline.

A. The Three Major Names of God

1. Elohim -Creator God, Strong One.

2. *Jehovah* -LORD, Covenant Keeper.

3. Adonai-Lord, Master.

B. Introduction to Elohim/God

1. The name of God (Elohim) is the most common designation.

   a. It comes from El, meaning "strong one," and *alah*, which means "to swear or bind with an oath."

   b. It is used 2,500 times in the Bible.

2. The name Elohim (God) is usually used with the unsaved or inanimate objects.

   a. First name used for God in the Bible (see Gen. l:l).

   b. Name used as the Creator in Genesis 1.

3. Elohim is plural and implies the Trinity.

C. The Trinity in the Old Testament

1. The name of God-Elohim implies the Trinity because it is a <u>compound unity.</u>

   a. 'Let us make man in our image" (v. 26); "the man is become as one of us" (3:22); "let us go down" (11: 7); "who will go for us?" (Isa. 6:8).

   b. Modern-day Jews call this "plural majesty."

2. The Trinitarian formulas in the Old Testament.

   a. "Holy, holy, holy" (Isa. 6:3).

   b. The Aaronic benediction of God (see Num. 6:24-26).

3. The Hebrew *Shema* Gewish statement of faith), which maintains the unity of God, implies the Trinity, "The LORD our God *is* one LORD" (Deut. 6:4).

4. The Old Testament distinguishes between God and God (see Gen. 19:24).

   a. The LORD has a son (see Ps. 2:7).

b. The Spirit distinguished from God (see Gen. 1:1,2).

5. Clear statement of the Trinity, "I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there *am* I: and now the Lord GOD [Father], and his Spirit [Holy Spirit], hath sent me [Son]" (Isa. 48:16).

D. Who Is God?

1. God is a <u>person</u>. Hegel, the German philosopher, said that God is an impersonal being, like a plate on the table.

a. As a person, God has self-awareness (see Exod. 3:14).

b. God has intellect; He speaks, listens, understands and has memory (see Gen. 18:19; Exod. 3:7; Jer. 5 1: 1 5).

c. God has emotion; He loves, hates, feels sorrow and kindness (see Gen. 6:6; Pss. 7:11; 103:8-13).

d. God has a will; He decides (see Prov. 21:1; Dan. 4:35).

2. God is a Spirit (see John. 4:24). This means:

a. He is an incorporeal being (nonphysical);

b. He is invisible (see Col. 1: 15);

c. He is pure (quality and quantity).

3. God is life- ‘the living God' (Matt. 16:16; see also josh. 3: 10),

a. What is life? Life is energy.

b. God is the energy that holds atoms and molecules together (see Col. 1: 1 7).

4. God is a self-existent being (see Exod. 3:14). He exists by Himself, within Himself and for Himself.

5. God is <u>immutable</u> or unchangeable (see Num. 23:19).

a. All change is for better or worse, but since God is perfect, He cannot improve or deteriorate.

b. Since God is unchangeable by His nature, He must continue in an unchanging existence.

c. When God appears to change (repent; see 1 Sam. 1 5: 1 1), the change is in a person, not God. When a person changes, this calls for a change in God's response to this person.

6. God is unlimited in time and Vace.

a. Time is the sequence of events, and God exists beyond events (see Pss. 90:2; 102:27).

b. Space is the distance between objects, and God exists beyond the last object. God inhabits eternity (see Isa. 57:15).

7. God is One (the unity of God). "The LORD our God *is* one LORD' (Deut. 6:4; see also Isa. 44:6).

E. Application

1. To curse by God's name or take it in vain is to reject God and His control over your life (see Exod. 20:7).

2. The more you learn about the many names of God, the more you will know Him and His ways.

Step 4: Discussion

A. Do you think it is true that a person's concept of God reflects his concept of himself and others?

B. Even though people have an idea of God, why do they not reverence Him?

C. How can we love and obey God more?

Step 5: Assignment

Ask members to prepare for the next study by reading chapter 11 of the Regal book, *My Father's Names.*

Bible Student Video Outline

LORD

Jehovah

The Self-existent God

Study 11

Materials Needed:

- Videocassette player and monitor, and tape 2 of My Father's Names video;
- One copy of the Study 12 Bible Student Video Outline for each group member.

Study Goals:

- Gain a biblical understanding of God as a loving and caring heavenly Father;
- Ask God to help you respond in a positive way to Him as your heavenly Father.

Step 1: Before the Showing

- Prior to the study, cue the tape to Lesson 12 titled "The Names of God in the Old Testament, the Father." This segment correlates with chapter 12 in the Regal book, My Father's Names.
- Ask members to give attention to: (1) Various aspects of God as Father; and (2) the privileges believers enjoy as children of their heavenly Father.
- Read aloud Matthew 6:9.

Step 2: Show Tape (9 minutes)

Step 3: Bible Study

- Distribute a Bible Student Video Outline to each member. Encourage note-taking and the filling in of the bland spaces on their outlines as the study progresses;
- Present study, using the following outline.

A. The Meaning of the Name Jehovah LORD

1 . The name LORD appears second in the Bible after the name God. It appears after the Creation of man (see Gen. 1:27,31; 2:4). It occurs 6,823 times in the Old Testament and is associated with His people.

2. The original term for *Jehovah* is from the Hebrew verb *hayah* that signifies "to become.' It is translated "I AM THAT I AM" Jehovah or LORD; Exod. 3:14). It also means "the Self-existing One."

3. God called His name Jehovah or LORD. It is perhaps His favorite name (refer to 6:3).

4. LORD (all four letters capitalized) is pronounced *"Yahweh" or* "Jehovah." There are no pronunciation marks in the original Hebrew, so we do not know how to accurately say it. Out of reverence, many Jews would not write or pronounce the name.

5. LORD is a special name of deity in relationship to those He created and especially to His people. He is the covenant-keeping LORD.

6. LORD is a redemptive name. The LORD God Oehovah *Elohim)* sought out sinning Adam (see Gen. 3:9), promised redemption (see v.15) and obviously offered the first sacrifice when He prepared coats for Adam and Eve from animal skins (see v. 21).

B. The Absolute Moral Attributes of God

We don't know how many attributes God has. One theologian says that God has a thousand. Charles Wesley, the hymn writer, describes them as "glorious all and numberless."

1. The LORD is <u>holy</u>.

   a. The word holy means "to cut off" and implies separation. "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty" (Rev. 4:8).

   b. Holiness is the perfection of God in all His moral attributes (see Ps. 11 1:9).

   c. Negative holiness means God is separate from all that is negative and evil. Positive holiness means God is the personification of all that is good and right.

2. The LORD is <u>love</u>.

a. Most describe God (LORD) in terms of love because that is what they want Him to be : Love is not just His virtue. When God loves, it is the expression of His whole nature (see 1 John 4:8,16).

b. Love is the perfection of the LORD's divine nature by which He is eternally moved to communicate Himself.

c. Love is an attitude of giving (see John 15:13; 1 John 3:16).

3. The LORD is good.

a. God's goodness is all the positive aspects of God (see Exod. 34:6,7).

b. 'There is none good but one that is God" (Mark lO:18).

C. The Comparative Attributes of God (non-moral) Psalm 139:1-16

1. The LORD is omniscience (see vv. 1-6).

a. *Omni* means "all," and *science* is from the root of the word for 'knowledge in all things." The LORD knows everything actual and potential (see Rom. 4:17).

b. The LORD knows Himself. He knows without effort, and He never had to learn anything (see Isa. 40:14).

c. Since God is perfect, He has perfect knowledge.

2. The LORD is omnipresent (see Ps. 139:7-11.).

a. The LORD is present everywhere at the same time (see vv. 71 1). His perfection demands this.

b. The LORD is transcendent (above; see Jer. 23:24; Eph. 1:20,21), and He is close to His creation (intimate; see Acts 17:27,28; Rev. 3:20).

3. The LORD is omnipotent (see Ps. 139:12-16).

a. God can do everything within harmony of His nature-the impossible and improbable (see John 1 1: 1-44; 6:19). But God can't do things that are contrary to His nature, or the result of His own self-limitation (see 2 Tim. 2:13; Heb. 6:18; Jas. 1: 1 3).

b. God's sovereignty is the result of His omnipotence.

D. Practical Application

1. The LORD is the God of Creation, but He is also "the LORD [who]

is my shepherd' (Ps. 23:1), i.e. intimate, caring and responsive.

2. He is the LORD because He created us, so our response should be to:
   a. (see 2 Chron. 30:8; Rom. 6:13);
   b. (see Luke 11:1-4; 2:17:18; Rom. 1:16);
   c. (see Deut. 6:13; Ps. 100:2).
3. We can't prove the existence of God to others, but we demonstrate His love and care by our actions.

Discussion

A. Try to describe the LORD in your own words.

B. What is the best way to let others know what the LORD is like?

C. How can we grow in our understanding of the LORD?

Leader's Video Outline

THE FATHER
Pater
Intimate Name for God

Study 12

Materials Needed:

- Videocassette player and monitor, and tape 2 of *My Father's Names* video;
- One copy of the Study 12 Bible Student Video Outline for each group member.

Study Goals:

- Gain a biblical understanding of God as a loving and caring heavenly Father;
- Ask God to help you respond in a positive way to Him as your heavenly Father.

Step 1: Before the Showing

- Prior to the study, cue the tape to Lesson 12 titled "The Names of God in the Old Testament, the Father." This segment correlates with chapter 12 in the Regal book, *My Father's Names.*
- Ask members to give attention to: (1) Various aspects of God as Father; and (2) the privileges believers enjoy as children of their heavenly Father.
- Read aloud Mafthew 6:9.

Step 2: Show Tape (9 minutes)

Step 3: Bible Study

- Distribute a Bible Student Video Outline to each member. Encourage note-taking and the filling in of the blank spaces on their outlines as the study progresses;
- Present study, using the following outline.

A. Introduction

1. The personification of all that God is in the Old Testament is found in the New Testament title for God as Father.

2. Jesus introduced a brand new relationship with God (see Matt. 6:9).

B. The Father

1 . The Father is the first Person of the Trinity (equal in nature, separate in person, submissive in duty; see John 14:26).

2. The Father is not emphasized in the Old Testament. He is seen as an analogy, metaphor or simile (see jer. 31:9).

3. The Father is reflected in the warmth of earthly families. In the spiritual family there is a kinship of all believers to each other and to God (see John 1: 12; 13:33; Philem. 1: 7).

4. The Fatherhood of God, called "Universalism," claims that everyone is God's child. But this view denies:

   a. All are sinners (see Rom. 3:23);

   b. Eternal <u>punishment</u> for sin (see 6:23);

   c. Necessity of the substitutionary <u>death</u> of Christ (see 1 Pet. 3:18).

   d. Regeneration and conversion (see John 3:3; Acts 16:31).

5. Different ways the name of the Father is used in the New Testament: "O Father, Lord of heaven" (Luke 10:21); "heavenly Father" (1 1: 1 3); "My Father" Uohn. 5: 1 7); 'God the Father' (6:27); "one Father, *even* God' (8:41); "Holy Father' (17:11); 'righteous Father' (v. 25); 'God our Father' (Rom. 1:7); 'Abba, Father" (8: 15); "Father of our Lord Jesus Christ' (15:6); 'Father of mercies" (2 Cor. 1:3); 'One God and Father" (Eph. 4:6); "Father of spirits' (Heb. 12:9); "Father of lights" Uas. 1: 1 7).

6. The favorite title for God used by Jesus is Father (Grk, Pater). "Father" occurs 156 times in the Gospel of John.

C. God as Father

1. The Father of Creation-by virtue of the fact that He is the Creator (see Gen. 1:1).

2. The national Father of Israel, "I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn" Jer. 31:9). God is the source, teacher, authority, judge and provider for the nation.

3. The unique Father of Jesus Christ, "Thou *art* my Son; this day have I begotten thee" (Ps. 2:7; see also Matt. 3:17; John 1:18; 3:16; 5: 1 7).

4. Redemptive Father. All saved persons have a new relationship to. God the Father. They are "born of God" Oohn 1: 13); "we cry, Abba, Father" (Rom. 8: 15).

5. We are "sons of God' (8:14). We are "children of God" (1 John. 2:12; 3: 1 0).

Children	**Sons**
New Nature	New Relationships
Place	Positional
State	Standing
Earth	Heaven

D. The Nature and Duties of a Father

1 . A father (parents) gives life to his children (physical and immaterial nature). When born again we get: God's life and nature (see John 3:15,36; 2 Cor. 5:17); a new standing and new desires (see Rom. 8:14-16; Gal. 5:22,23); and become members of God's family (see John 13:33).

2. A father loves his children. A loving God will do good things for His children (see Luke 11:13).

3. A father protects his children. This is a natural desire of a good father. Even so, God protects our relationship with Him (see John 10:28,29; see also Rom. 8:35-39).

4. A father will provide for his children. "Fathers, provoke not but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). To nurture is to provide positive training. God provides for our spiritual and material needs (see Eph. 3:8; Matt. 6:30-34).

E. The Heavenly Father and the Believer

1. Fellowship with the Father. "Our fellowship is with the Father" (I John. 1:3). "Our Father which art in heaven" (Matt. 6:9).

2. Access to the Father. "We cry, Abba, Father" (Rom. 8: 1 5). "Your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things" (Matt. 6:32).

3. Guidance by the Father. He will guide us if we let him (see Ps. 32:8; Prov. 3:5,6; John 16:13).

4. Security from the Father. *"To be* conformed to the image of his Son" (Rom. 8:29; see also vv. 28,32).

5. Inheritance of the Father. "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ" (Rom. 8:17). "In my Father's house are many mansions I go to prepare a place for you" John. 14:2).

Step 4: Discussion

A. Do you call God "Father" when you pray? Why?

B. Is it difficult for those with a poor father image to think of God as Father? Why?

C. How can we deepen our relationship with the Father?

Step 5: Assignment

- Group leader fills out the "As I See It" form in the back pages of the Group Study Guide.

Bible Student Video Outline

Hallowed Be Thy Names

Study 1

Bible Study

A. How Do We Know What God Is Like?

1. By Creation, miracles, laws, our conscience and His names.

2. We need to examine every source that tells us about God to fully understand His attributes and nature.

B. Why Study the Names of God?

1. To understand His _____.

2. To know the different ways we relate to Him.

3. To realize He is the _____ to solving our problems.

4. To teach us to _____ to Him in our problems.

5. To cause us to _____.

C. The Three Primary Names of God

1. *Elohim*-Creator God (Gen. 1:1).

2. *Jehovah*-LORD, Covenant Keeper (2:4).

3. *Adonai*-Lord, Master (15:2).

D. The Compound Names of God

1. LORD God-Jehovah Elohim (2:4).

2. Lord GOD-Adonai Jehovah (15:2).

3. Lord God-Adonai Elohim (Dan. 9:3).

E. How the Jews Used God's Name

1. The name of God was associated with God's _____ or _____ (see Deut. 12:5; Isa. 18:7). The Jews would not say the names of false gods (see Exod. 23:13; Josh. 23:7).

2. The name of God was used with personal greetings, 'The LORD *be* with you,' and "The LORD bless thee" (Ruth 2:4).

3. The name Jehovah became too holy to pronounce.

4. During the Maccabean uprising in the second century B.C., the Jews were prohibited from using the Lord's name. When they gained independence, they used it in documents.

5. Jesus introduced a new name for LORD God in the New Testament (see Luke 11:1-4).

F. Practical Applications

1. We are forbidden to use His name in cursing (see Exod. 20:7).

2. We seek God by studying His name (see Ps. 46:10; John l:12).

3. We gain knowledge about ourselves through His name (see Gen. 1:27).

4. We gain life from God through His name (see John 17:3; Acts 4:12).

Discussion

Think of the name(s) of God you use when praying to Him.

A. What names do you use in talking to Him?

B. Why do you call God by certain names?

C. What can you learn about yourself by the names you give to Him?

Bible Student Video Outline

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

Jehovah Roi

The Caring Name of God

Study 2

Bible Study

A. Review

1. *Elohim*-Creator God.

2. *Jehovah*-LORD, Covenant Keeper.

3. *Adonai*-Lord, Master.

B. Introduction

1. The LORD is my shepherd, *Jehovah Roi*. Jehovah (LORD) means "covenant keeping,"' and Roi refers to "care, watchfulness, concern."

2. First Bible reference to God as a shepherd, 'The God which fed [shepherded] me all my life long" (Gen. 48:15).

3. Sheep are ignorant, directionless and selfish. Apart from God, people are like sheep (see Isa. 53:6; see also Ps. 14:2,3).

C. Eight Actions of My Jehovah-Shepherd

1. _____ *Jehovah Roi*,"The LORD is my shepherd" (Ps. 23:1). He (and anyone He has commissioned to pastor/teach in the Church) shepherds us by:

   a. Leading (example; see John 10:4; 1 Pet. 2:21);

   b. Feeding (teaching; see John 21:17; Eph. 4:11-13);

   c. Tending (protecting;seejohnlO:10,11;Acts2O:28,29).

2. _____ *Jehovah-jireh* ("the LORD shall provide"), "I shall not want" (Ps. 23:1).

a. The LORD provided a lamb for Abraham (see Gen. 22:14).

b. God provided Himself through His Son Jesus Christ (see Zech. 12: 10; John 3:16).

3. _____ *Jehovah Shalom,* (the LORD [our] Peace), "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters" (Ps. 23:2).

a. When Gideon faced a challenge, he discovered God as Jehovah Shalom (see Judg. 6:24.)

b. Gideon gave Jehovah a new name (see v. 24).

4. _____-*Jehovah Rophe* (the LORD [our] Healer), "He restoreth my soul" (Ps. 23:3). Israel needed healing from the LORD (see Exod. 15:26).

a. At Marah the water needed healing (see w. 22-25).

b. We sometimes need physical, mental and spiritual healing.

(1) Preventive healing (see v. 25).

(2) Coffective healing (see v. 26).

5. _____ *Jehovah Tsidkenu* (the LORD our Righteousness), 'He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness" (Ps. 23:3).

a. We deserve judgment or punishment of hell (see John 3:36; Rom. 6:23).

b. Through the LORD our Righteousness, we receive mercy, grace and righteousness (see Ps. 103:4; Jer. 23:6; 1 Cor. 1:4).

6. _____ *Jehovah Nissi* (the LORD my Banner), "Though I walk through the valley of death thou art with me" (Ps. 23:4).

a. The banner or flag was held high in battle.

b. The LORD was with Israel in their battle against Amalek (see Exod. 17:8-15). They needed:

(1) _____ to obey the Lord (see v. 9);

(2) _____as Moses held up his hand (see v. 11);

(3) _____ to fight (see v. 9,13);

(4) _____ to hold up Moses' hands (see v. 12).

7. _____ *Jehovah Shammah* (the LORD is there), 'Thou *art* with me" (Ps. 23:4; see also Ezek. 48:35).

   a. Rod was used as a club to beat off wild animals. The staff was a crook that rescued sheep in trouble.

   b. Believers are comforted by the Good Shepherd's rod and staff (see Ps. 110:2-refers to the gospel; Heb. 12:5-11; 1 Pet. 2:25; Matt. 18:11-14).

   c. God meets the need of loneliness (see Matt. 28:20; John 14:18; 1 Thess. 5:1 1).

8. _____ *Jehovah Mekaddishkhem* (the LORD that sanctifies), "Thou anointest my head with oil" (Ps. 23:5; see also Exod. 31:13).

   a. Oil is used to clean, heal, soothe and replenish. It is a symbol of the Holy Spirit (see 1 Sam. 16:13; Isa. 61:1; Acts. 10:38).

   b. God meets the needs of moral or spiritual uncleanness and defilement (see Phil. 4:13; 1 John 2:1,2).

D. Jesus Is Our Jehovah Roi

1. Jesus gives a shepherd's care (see John lO:3,4,10,11).

2. We can have a shepherding ministry under Christ as we lead, feed and tend other sheep (see Eph. 4:11,12; 2 Tim. 2:24,25).

Discussion

Psalm 23 describes different aspects of the relationship between the LORD and His sheep.

A. Which relationship is most meaningful to you? Why?

B. Which relationship do you need to develop?

C. How will you do it?

Bible Student Video Outline

ALMIGHTY GOD

El Shaddai

The God Who Supplies My Needs

Study 3

Bible Study

A. Introduction

1. God is denim-strong enough to solve our problems
2. God is lace-tender in His care for us.

B. The meaning of Almighty God

1. The different names of God are a compound of El (Elohim-God) or Jehovah (LORD), plus an attribute.

   a. El is the strong God.
   b. Shaddai is His protection and suficiency in time of pressure.

2. Shaddai and the Hebrew word for shad, meaning breast, are different words, but sound alike (see Gen. 49:25; Job 3:12; Ps. 22:9).

   a. The wordplay reminds us that God provides for us. He is our source of _____ and _____.
   b. He loves us and is the true giver of His life to us in our problems. Out of our _____ we become _____.

3. El Shaddai appears 48 times in the Old Testament, which includes 31 times in the book of Job.
   a. Under pressure, Job called on the names of a tough-but-tender caring God.
   b. Job was counseled not to despise chastening (see Job 5:17).

4. El Shaddai occurs 12 times in the New Testament, which includes 9 times in the book of Revelation (see 2 Cor. 6:18; Rev. 1:8). He is faithful to:

   a. Reward the believer (see Rev. 11:15-18);
   b. Pour out judgment on the unbeliever (see v. 18).

C. Law of First Reference

1. Definition-

2. God appears to Abram after long testing (see Gen. 15-17:2).

   a. Abram is 99 years old (see 17:1) and "as good as dead" (Heb. 11:12).
   b. God reassures Abram of His promise (see Gen. 17:1,2).
   c. God introduced a new name for Himself-El Shaddai (Almighty God, v. 1)
3. New problems demand a new understanding of God, which is Received by learning a new name for Him (see Exod. 3:13,14; 6:2,3).

4. Abraham (name changed from Abram: see Gen. 17:5) was supernaturally given a son, conceived at age 99 (see vv. 1,2), born at age 100 (see vv. 15-17; 21:2). We need faith to carry us from His _____ to His _____.

D. El Shaddai: He Strengthens and Satisfies

1. The promise passed on.

a. It is eveident Abraham passes the name El Shaddai to Isaac, who later used it in hi8s prayer for his son Jacob to find a wife (see 28:3).
b. Jacob used the name to bless his son Joseph (see 49:22,25).

2. God is faithful to his nature (see 1 Thess. 5:24).

a. To _____ when we rebel (see Heb. 12:5,6,10).
b. To _____ when we obey (see Ps. 1:1-3).

3. El Shaddai may delay, but He never postpones.

E. Six Steps for El Shaddai's Provision

What we know about problems: We can't run from them; we can't stop them; and we can't solve them. We need the help of El Shaddai.

1. _____ - negative holiness. "Come out from among them, and be ye separate…touch not the unclean thing….And ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty [El Shaddai]" (2 Cor. 6:17,18).

2. _____- His presence-positive holiness. "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty [El Shaddai]" (Rev. 4:8).

3. _____-in His presence or promise. "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almight [El Shaddai]" (PS. 91:1).

4. _____-to follow or obey His commands. "I am the Almighty [El Shaddai] God; walk before me, and be thoug perfect" (Gen. 17:1).

5. _____-your spiritual health.

a. Indication of one who is not a child of god (see Heb. 12:8).
b. Naomi and Elimilech.

(1) Disobeyed God in tome of famine (see Ruth 1:1,2).
(2) Results of disobedience (see vv. 3,5,19-21)

6. _____ by faith His promise. "The Almighty [El Shaddai]…shall bless thee with blessings" (Gen. 49:25).

Discussion

A. Share with the group a time when the Almighty helped or corrected you.
B. What did you learn from this experience?
C. What did you learn about God?

Bible Study Video Outline

MOST HIGH GOD

El Elyon

Possessor of Heaven and Earth

Study 4

Bible Study

A. The Superlative God

1._____ El Elyon means "Most High" or “Most High God.” El is Elohim-“Strong Creator,” and Elyon is "Highest.”

a. This is the superlative-high, higher, highest. God is Founder or "possessor of heaven and earth" (Gen. 14:19).
b. God is not limited to a man-made temple (see Acts 7:48).

2. _____Elyon is identified primarily with Gentiles (i.e. the earth; see Deut. 32:8) rather than with Jews (i.e. the Promised Land).

3._____This title first used by the devil, Lucifer (see Isa. 14:12-14).
a. "I will ascend into heaven..”
b. "I will exalt my throne.”
c. “I will sit in the north.”
d. “I will ascend above the clouds.”
e. “I will be like the most High [El Elyonl]”

4._____ El Elyon is used by fallen angels.

a. Legion (see Mark 5:7,9).
b. Servant girl (see Acts 16:16,17, NKIV).
c. Demons recognize Christ as Possessor or Authority (see Matt. 8:3 1; Jas. 2:19).
d. Demons do not want to be in submission to God, but to possess heaven and earth (Isa. 14:12-14).

5._____ favorite name for God (see Dan. 4:17; 5:18).

6. The name Most High God occurs 52 times in Scripture.

B. Law of First Reference

1._____ Melchizedek, king of Salem met Abraham and gave him food (see Gen. 14:17,18).

2._____ "*He was* the priest of the most high God' (v. 18). Abraham paid tithes to him (see v. 20).

3._____Melchizedek is Christ.

Some have thought this is a Christophany-an appearance of Christ and in fact Christ.

a. Without father/without mother (see Heb. 7:3).

b. Bread and wine/Lord's Table (see 1 Cor. 10:16,21).

c. Received tithes (see Gen. 14:20).

d. Christ a priest after Melchizedek's order (see Ps. 110:4; Heb. 5:10).

e. King of righteousness (see Heb. 7:2).

4. Melchizedek is a type.

a. No lineage (Heb. 7:3; Luke 2:48-50; John 1:2).

b. Name is throne title (see Heb. 7:2).

c. Never identified as God.

5._____is the issue when Abraham meets two kings.

a. He refused to compromise (see Gen. 14:21-24).

b. He paid tithes (see v. 20).

C. Interpreting El Elyon

1._____belong to the Most High (see Deut. 32:8).

a. The world (see Exod. 9:29).

b. People/groups (see Ps. 24:1).

2._____sought E Elyon while wandering in the wilderness (see 91:1).

3._____prayed to the Most High when a fugitive outside the Promised Land (see 9:2).

4. Why did Daniel use this name? (see Dan. 3:26; 4:24).

a. He was outside the Promise Land (see 1: 1,3,6).

b. The Temple destroyed (see 2 Chron. 36:19).

c. Gentiles controlled Israel (see 2 Kings 25:21-24). He recognized God as the Possessor of heaven and earth.

D. Application of El Elyon

1._____ _____ Satan has two desires:

a. To be against God (see Isa. 14:12-14);
b. To be in the place of God (see Matt. 4:1-11).

2._____ _____Both the infilling of the Holy Spirit and possession by a demon are similar in process.

a. A person may yield to either-the Spirit or a demon.
b. The more one yields, the more one becomes filled.

3._____ _____Tithing began with a Gentile ministry, and it is based on God's possession of heaven and earth (see Gen. 14:20).

4._____ _____ _____The solution to gradual possession and exorcism is the name of Jesus (see Phil. 2:9,10).

5._____ _____The Most High who possesses heaven and earth wants to possess us (see Rom. 12:1).

Bible Student Video Outline

THE EVERLASTING GOD

El Olam

And the Secret Name of God

Study 5

A. Introduction

1. Reasons for keeping a secret.

2. Secret names.

3. Secret name of God.

   a. El is_____ _____.

   b. *Olam* is_____ or _____"From everlasting to everlasting, thou *art* God' (Ps. 90:2).

B. Beer-sheba- Place of Revelation

1. El Olam was first revealed to Abraham at the well Beer-sheba (see Gen. 21:22-33).

   a. The well was taken from Abraham (see v. 25).

   b. He secured it again. "I have digged this well" (v. 30).

2. Why God was revealed as the Everlasting God at Beer-sheba.

   a. The well represented squatters rights. This was the first symbol of occupying the Promised Land. God promised Abraham:

      (1)_____(see 12:2);

      (2)_____(see v. 7; 17:7). Isaac was born (see 21:1-8)-fulfillment of the first promise, but the land did not yet belong to Abraham. This well was a symbol or act of faith in God's promise. "The mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children" (Ps. 103:17).

   b. The well represented the secret name of God. God was

doing mysterious things in the life of Abraham.

C. The God of Eternity

1. El Olam is the unchangeable God (see 25:6).

2. Abraham called on El Olam at Beer-sheba because he needed to hang his hope on a God who was:

a._____all-knowing (see 44:21);

b. _____all-present (see Jer. 23:24);

c._____all-powerful (see Job 42:2).

D. The Secret Name of God

1. New Testament.

a. A _____ is a mystery (see Eph. 3:2-6).

(1) This age-the Church age-is called the dispensation of the mystery, which is now made known.

(2) Unsearchable riches of Christ (see w. 8-1 1).

b. Olam means_____: God has a purpose that is not yet known. In the New Testament, God has a purpose that was not known in the Old.

2. Mysterious periods of time divided into seven: Seven days (see Exod. 12: 1 5), seven weeks (see Deut. 16:9), seven months (see Ezek. 39:14), seven times seven years (see Lev. 25:8).

God who has a secret name, El Olam, does secret things in our lives.

E. Application

1. The secret name of God gave new meaning to (see Deut. 29:29).

a. Believers must trust in that which is revealed.

b. Believers must walk by faith (seeRom.1:17).

2. The silence of God gives new meaning to the voice of God.

a. God speaks through His (see Rom. 1:18-20).

b. God speaks through His (see Heb. 1:1,2).

c. God speaks through the (see Rom. 2:14,15).

Don't expect God to speak where He has already spoken.

3. The silence of God gives new meaning to the of God.

a. The revealed Word of God.

b. Don't live by feelings but by the principles of His Word.

Discussion

A. How have you felt when God did not answer your prayers?

B. Has God's silence influenced your faith? Why?

C. What should we know about the silence of God?

Bible Student Video Outline

MIGHTY GOD

El Gibbor

And the Strong Names of God

Study 6

A. The God of Strength

1. There are many strength names of God in Scripture: Mighty God, Strong One, Fortress, the LORD my Strength, Rock and Tower (see Job 9:19; Ps. 18:2; Isa. 9:6).

2. The name *El Gibbor* means “Mighty God."

   a. The best known promise to Israel was given when they faced the possibility of losing a military battle, 'For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God [El Gibbor], The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isa. 9:6).

   b. The name El Gibbor was first applied to God by Moses, 'For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty [Gibborl, and a terrible' (Deut. 10: 1 7).

   c. The word Gibbor is an adjective to describe God (see Ps. 24:8).

3. The name Abir means “strong” or “mighty.”

   a. "Ibe mighty *God* of Jacob' (Gen. 49:24).

   b. 'The mighty One of Israel' asa. 1:24).

4. The name Tsur means 'rock.'

   a. Five times in the song of Moses, God is referred to as the Rock (see Deut. 32:4,15,18,30,31).

   b. A rock provided protection from the sun, animals or a storm.

B. Application

1. God cannot protect what we won't give Him.

   a. We don't give to Him because we are_____ in the things that are ours.

      (1) All become a part of us.

      (2) All are an extension of our personalities.

   b. We don't give to Him because we are

      (1) We desire things, influence with people, and position.

      (2) Negative motivations for ourselves.

   c. We don't give to Him because we it.

      (1) We want to keep for ourselves what is ours (see Matt. 10:39).

      (2) God demonstrated His love and protection for us by giving His Son (see John 3:16; 10: 10, 1 1).

   d. We don't give to Him because we we can protect it *better* than He can.

      (1) Pride keeps us from seeking God's protection.

      (2) We endeavor to play god by exerting our independence and self-sufficiency.

   e. We don't give to Him because we are to the issues.

      (1) Ignorant of God's blessings and protection.

      (2) God wants all we have in order to enable us to act as His agents and stewards.

2. God won't work His way in our lives while we work out our ways.

   a. Victory comes through surrender (see Jas. 4:7,10).

b. When we have our hands on the steering wheel of our lives, we are in control, not God (see w. 13-15).

3. God's protection begins with a _____, not a rabbit's foot. The principles of protection apply to our lives when:

a. They are claimed within the will of God (see w. 3,15);

b. They are within the realm of what He has promised;

c. They are dependent upon the believer's walk with God,-

(1) Know God's Word in order to claim His promises (see 2 Tim. 2:ls).

(2) We are not exposed to certain dangers when we walk close to God.

Discussion

A. What has God promised to protect in your life?

B. When can you not claim God's protection?

C. Give an Illustration of one time God obviously protected you. What did you learn about God?

D. What lesson can you apply to your life because of today's study.?

Bible Student Video Outline

KING

Jehovah Melek

The Throne Name of God
Study 7

A. God Is Our King

1. Melek means 'King.'

2. Even though King is not a personal name of God, it is one of His titles (see Ps. 10:16).

3. The psalmist used the title as a synonym for God, "My King, and my God" (5:2; 84:3).

B. Isaiah's Vision of the Lord as King
Isaiah 6:1-8

1. King Uzziah had died (see v. 1).

   a. Friend of Isaiah.

   b. Historians believe he was Isaiah's hero.

2. The Lord took King Uzziah's place, "I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and His train filled the temple" (v. 1).

   a. A heavenly throne room, probably in a heavenly temple.

   b. Royal robes-probably the Shekinah Glory cloud.

3. God is identified as 'The LORD of hosts" (1 Sam. 4:4) or the 'God of the Angels.'

4. Seraphim (angels) were around the throne (see Isa. 6:2) saying, "Holy, holy, holy, *is* the LORD of hosts: the whole earth *is* fun of His glory" (v. 3).

5. Isaiah was overwhelmed with his vision of God and said, "Woe is me! for I am undone; because I *am* a man of unclean lips" (V. 5).

6. Isaiah responded to God's call into the ministry (see v. 8).

C. The Twofold Role of the King

1. In Israel the king was i.e, he provided legislative, judicial and executive services for the People.

   a. The king _____laws (legislative power; see Ps. 60:7; Isa. 33:22). 'The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come" (Gen. 49:10). This prophecy promises:

      (1) There would be a king of Israel;

      (2) The king would have legislative power;

      (3) The king would come from Judah.

   b. The king _____ the laws (judicial power).

      (1) The king sometimes served as a judge.

      (2) Solomon's experience (see 1 Kings 3:16-28).

   c. The king such as roads, valid currency, an army and other administrative services (executive power; refer to 4:1-34 that points up Solomon's organizational ability).

2. In Israel the king was symbolic, i.e, he was God's representative on earth (ritual kingship or divine kingship; see 1 Sam. 10:25; Ps. 2:6).

   a. The basis for a theocracy.

   b. This is the role of Jesus when He comes (see Isa. 2:2-5; Zech. 8:3-5; 14; Rev. 20:1-4).

D. Other Kingly Term

1._____ This term is used interchangeably with king, 'The LORD reigneth" (Pss. 93:1; 97:1; 99:1).

2. _____ . This word is also used interchangeably with the words reign and king.

   a. Place where king functions or sits as the divine representative. Place from which the LORD reigns (see Ps. 1 1:4; Isa. 66: 1; Rev. 4:2-4).

   b. More than one throne in Israel (see Ps. 122:5).

c. Thrones of spiritual authority (see Col. 1:16).

E. Application

1. Although God is as intimate as a father, as King he has _____over our lives (see Matt. 6:9; also refer to Esther 5:2).

2. Jehovah Melek (The LORD our King) deserves _____ and _____ (see John 4:23,24).

3. A person enters the Kingdom by the _____ _____ (see 3:3).

4. The present Kingdom of God is different from the future kingdom of Israel (see Matt. 16:28).

5. Today the King rules His subjects by yieldedness (see Matt. 7:21; Rom. 6:13).

Discussion

A. How much more authority does a king have than the president or prime minister of a countr3O

B. How would we relate to a president or prime minister differently than a king?

C. List the things God does for us as our King.

D. What should be our proper reaction when we recognize God as the King of our lives?

Bible Student Video Outline

THE LORD OF Hosts

Jehovah Sabaoth

The Militant Name of God

Study 8

A. Jehovah Sabaoth-the LORD of Hosts

1. Jehovah ("I AM THAT I AM"-*self-existent One;* Exod. 3:14) and Sabaoth mean God and LORD of the:

   a. _____or

   b. _____(i.e. heavenly Hosts).

2. The term Jehovah Sabaoth is not found in the Pentateuch (Gen.-Deut.), Joshua or Judges. It is found mostly toward the end of the Old Testament-the Prophets.

   a. Fourteen times in Haggai.

   b. Fifty times in Zechariah.

   c. Twenty-five times in Malachi.

3. The name points people to a new relationship with Jehovah as it relates to:

   a. _____ _____;

   b. _____ _____.

B. Law of First Reference

1. First mentioned in 1 Samuel 1:3 when Elkanah and Hannah went to Shiloh "to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts."

   a. This term was not needed earlier because people rallied around the cause to conquer the Promised Land.

b. Now they needed to rally around the LORD of Hosts to give them victory in battle. Israel needed to know God was the LORD of Hosts who would fight for them.

2. Once in the land, Israel slipped into sin during the time of the judges (see Judg. 2:8-21; 21:25). The book of Judges is a transitional book:

   a. From judges to kings;

   b. From defeat to victory;

   c. From a theocracy to a kingdom.

3. Israel asked for a king (see 1 Sam. 8:1-22). Not a choice of a man, but a rejection of God (see v. 7).

4. Israel called for the Ark of the Covenant (see 4:3).

   a. Their faith was in a piece of furniture as a good-luck charm.

   b. God's description, “the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth *between* the cherubims” (v. 4).

C. God Fights for Israel

1. Goliath challenges Israel's enemies to battle (see 17:4-10).

   a. Saul's men were fearful and fled (see w. 11,23,24).

   b. Young David fought against Goliath, 'I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel' (v. 45).

2. The prophets point the people back to Jehovah Sabaoth, the LORD of Hosts (see Isa. 10:24,26; Hag. 2:4-11,23).

   a. As Israel lost their faith, she lost her battles.

   b. Although the armies of Israel were defeated, God and His angels were not.

D. Application

1. Jehovah Sabaoth brings heavenly power to the aid of His children.

a. Joshua asked the stranger, "Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come" Josh. 5: 13,14).

(1) Some believe this was a Christophany-Jesus Christ Himself.

(2) The stranger came in Joshua's hour of need to encourage him.

b. The name LORD of Hosts indicates the power with which God will help His children.

2. The LORD of Hosts is a guardian to prevent attacks.

a. Tithing is an obedient response to God by His children. It keeps the enemy away (see Mal. 3:10,11).

b. Tithing was associated with the LORD of Hosts (see V. 10).

(1) _____ yield/submit/obey.

(2) _____-God.

(3) _____-today's paycheck, not tomorrow's.

3. The LORD of Hosts rules the armies of heaven.

a. They will fight for the LORD and obey His will (see Matt. 26:53).

b. They will minister to believers (see Heb. 1:14, *NM.*)

Discussion

A. How can we get the LORD of Hosts to protect us?

B. When can we expect the LORD of Hosts to protect us?

C. In what areas will we get protection?

Bible Student Video Outline

THE LORD/MASTER

Adonai

The Headship Name of God
Study 9

A. The Third Name of God

1. Three primary or major names of God: God *(Elohim);* LORD *Jehovah); Lord/Master* (Adonai).

2. Adonai means Master/Lord (small letters).

3. The name Lord (Adonai) occurs 340 times in the Hebrew Old Testament. It is the name the rabbis used as a substitute for Jehovah, the name that was too holy to speak or write.

4. Adonai is from the word *Adon* (singular), which was used for men who were masters of slaves, or to denote a husband's relationship with his wife.

5. Adonai (plural) implies the Trinity and is used to refer to deity.

6. The name Adonai expresses a personal relationship between master and slave.

   a. For the master this implies.

      (1) _____(control) by the master;

      (2) _____(ownership) over possessions;

      (3) _____Necessity of and for slaves.

   b. For the slave this implies:

      (1) _____ and _____.

      (2) _____ for his _____.

      (3) _____ for _____.

7. Relationship was one of love and allegiance, not an "Uncle Tom's Cabin" relationship.

   a. A slave could participate in Temple sacrifices and was a member of the household.

   b. Hired help was excluded from the privileges enjoyed by a slave.

B. The Master Relationship

1. The Christian is unique because he or she acknowledges a relationship with God. The world in practice denies it.

2. Adonai is a title that assures believers:

   a. The Master has _____ and the to care for them;

   b. Help is - to assist them to carry out their tasks or duties as a servant of God;

   c. They must call on the to the Master to get the assistance needed.

3. Bible people who called upon the Master relationship.

   a. Abram-when childless (see Gen. 15:2).

      (1) His two burdens: A seed and an inheritance promised him (see 13:14-17). At this time he had neither.

      (2) He prayed again, "Lord [Adonai] GOD, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?"(15:8). Abram goes to his Master for resources to carry out God's plans.

   b. Moses-to carry out the task his Master Jehovah) had given him. "O my Lord [Adonai], I *am* not eloquent" (Exod. 4-.10; see also 3:6-10).

   c. Joshua-who led Israel into the Promised Land, prayed as a slave to his Master for help when Israel was defeated at Ai. "O Lord [Adonai], what shall I say, when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies!" Josh. 7:8; see also vv. 1-7).

   d. Gideon-who was fearful and with a low self-esteem, prayed to God in a servant/master relationship. He asked for the assurance of victory in leading Israel against the Midianites (see Judg. 6:11-15).

e. Isaiah-who saw the Lord [Adonai] sitting on a throne after his hero King Uzziah died, needed to renew his relationship to his Master/Adonai (see Isa. 6:1-10).

(1) _____ of God (see v. 1).

(2) _____ to speak (see v. 6).

(3) _____ for service (see w. 8,9).

f. Jeremiah-a weak person who needed to be encouraged when he was called to be a servant of Adonai. "Ah, Lord [Adonai] GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for *I am* a child" Jer. 1:6).

(1) God _____ him (see w. 7,8).

(2) God _____ him (see w. 7,9).

(3) God _____ him (see w. 9,10).

C. Our Master Relationship

1. The Old Testament Hebrew Adonai (Master) is the counterpart for the New Testament Greek kutios (Lord) (see John. 13:13).

2. As servants we are to submit to our Master (see Matt. 10:24,25).

3. Our Master wants to ultimately make us masters (see 25:21).

4. The title Adonai gives believers the privilege of having God as their Master who will care for them (see Matt. 6:1 1; Rom 12:2-8).

Discussion

A. What is the contemporary meaning of the name master?

B. What can God do for us as our Master?

Bible Student Video Outline

GOD

Elohim

The Strong Creator

Study 10

A. The Three Major Names of God

1. *Elohim* -Creator God, Strong One.

2. *Jehovah* -LORD, Covenant Keeper.

3. *Adonai*-Lord, Master.

B. Introduction to Elohim/God

1. The name of God (Elohim) is the most common designation.

   a. It comes from El, meaning "strong one," and *alah*, which means "to swear or bind with an oath."

   b. It is used 2,500 times in the Bible.

2. The name Elohim (God) is usually used with the unsaved or inanimate objects.

   a. First name used for God in the Bible (see Gen. 1:1).

   c. How can we love and obey God more?

   b. Name used as the Creator in Genesis 1.

3. Elohim is plural and implies the Trinity.

C. The Trinity in the Old Testament

1. The name of God-Elohim implies the Trinity because it is a

a. "Let us make man in our image" (v. 26); "the man is become as one of us' (3:22); "let us go down" (II: 7); "who will go for us?" (Isa. 6:8).

b. Modem-day Jews call this “plural majesty."

2. The Trinitarian formulas in the Old Testament.

   a. "Holy, holy, holy” (Isa. 6:3).

   b. The Aaronic benediction of God (see Num. 6:24-26).

3. The Hebrew *Shema* (Jewish statement of faith), which maintains the unity of God, implies the Trinity, "The LORD our God *is* one LORD" (Deut. 6:4).

4. The Old Testament distinguishes between God and God (see Gen. 19:24).

   a. The LORD has a son (see Ps. 2:7).

   b. The Spirit distinguished from God (see Gen. 1:1,2).

5. Clear statement of the Trinity, "I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there *am 1:* and now the Lord GOD [Father], and his Spirit [Holy Spirit], hath sent me [Son]" (Isa. 48:16).

D. Who Is God?

1. God is a _____ Hegel, the German philosopher, said that God is an impersonal being, like a plate on the table.

   a. As a person, God has self-awareness (see Exod. 3:14).

   b. God has intellect; He speaks, listens, understands and has memory (see Gen. 18:19; Exod. 3:7; Jer. 51:15).

   c. God has emotion; He loves, hates, feels sorrow and kindness (see Gen. 6:6; Pss. 7:11; 103:8-13).

   d. God has a will; He decides (see Prov. 21:1; Dan. 4:35).

2. God is _____ (see John. 4:24). This means:

   a. He is an incorporeal being (nonphysical);

b. He is invisible (see Col. 1:15);

c. He is pure (quality and quantity).

3. God is _____ -"the living God" (Matt. 16:16; see also Josh. 3: 1 0).

a. What is life? Life is energy.

b. God is the energy that holds atoms and molecules together (see Col. 1: 1 7).

4. God is a_____being (see Exod. 3:14).
He exists by Himself, within Himself and for Himself.

5. God is_____or unchangeable (see Num. 23:19).

a. All change is for better or worse, but since God is perfect, He cannot improve or deteriorate.

b. Since God is unchangeable by His nature, He must continue in an unchanging existence.

c. When God appears to change (repent; see 1 Sam. 1 5: 1 1), the change is in a person, not God. When a person changes, this calls for a change in God's response to this person.

6. God is unlimited in_____and

a. Time is the sequence of events, and God exists beyond events (see Pss. 90:2; 102:27).

b. Space is the distance between objects, and God exists beyond the last object. God inhabits eternity (see Isa. 57:15).

7. God is (the unity of God). "The LORD our God *is* one LORD' (Deut. 6:4; see also Isa. 44:6).

E. Application

1. To curse by God's name or take it in vain is to reject God and His

control over your life (see Exod. 20:7).

2. The more you learn about the many names of God, the more you will know Him and His ways.

Discussion

A. Do you think it is true that a person's concept of God reflects his concept of himself and others?

B. Even though people have an idea of God, why do they not reverence Him?

Bible Student Video Outline

LORD

Jehovah

The Self-Existent God

Study 11

Bible Study

A. The Meaning of the Name Jehovah LORD

1 . The name LORD appears second in the Bible after the name God. It appears after the Creation of man (see Gen. 1:27,31; 2:4). It occurs 6,823 times in the Old Testament and is associated with His people.

2. The original term for *Jehovah* is from the Hebrew verb *hayah* that signifies 'to become.' It is translated "I AM THAT I AM' Uehovah or LORD; Exod. 3:14). It also means 'the Self-existing One.'

3. God called His name Jehovah or LORD. It is perhaps His favorite name (refer to 6:3).

4. LORD (all four letters capitalized) is pronounced *"Yahweh' or* "Jehovah.' There are no pronunciation marks in the original Hebrew, so we do not know how to accurately say it. Out of reverence, many Jews would not write or pronounce the name.

5. LORD is a special name of deity in relationship to those He created and especially to His people. He is the covenant-keeping LORD.

6. LORD is a redemptive name. The LORD God Oehovah *Elohim)* sought out sinning Adam (see Gen. 3:9), promised redemption (see v. 15) and obviously offered the first sacrifice when He prepared coats for Adam and Eve from animal skins (see v. 21).

B. The Absolute Moral A@butes of God

We don't know how many attributes God has. One theologian says that God has a thousand. Charles Wesley, the hymn writer, describes them as "glorious all and numberless.'

1. The LORD is _____.

   a. The word holy means "to cut off" and implies separation. "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Mighty" (Rev. 4:8).

b. Holiness is the perfection of God in all His moral attributes (see Ps. 11 1:9).

c. Negative holiness means God is separate from all that is negative and evil. Positive holiness means God is the personification of all that is good and right.

2. The LORD is

a. Most describe God (LORD) in terms of love because that is what they want Him to be : Love is not just His virtue. When God loves, it is the expression of His whole nature (see 1 John 4:8,16).

b. Love is the perfection of the LORD's divine nature by which He is eternally moved to communicate Himself.

c. Love is an attitude of giving (see John 15:13; 1 John 3:16).

3. The LORD is

a. God's goodness is all the positive aspects of God (see Exod. 34:6,7).

b. 'There is none good but one, that is God" (Mark 10:18).

C. The Comparative Attributes of God (non-moral) Psalm 139:1-16

1. The LORD is _____ (see vv. 1-6).

a. Omni means 'all,' and *science* is from the root of the word for "knowledge in all things." The LORD knows everything actual and potential (see Rom. 4:17).

b. The LORD knows Himself. He knows without effort, and He never had to learn anything (see Isa. 40:14).

c. Since God is perfect, He has perfect knowledge.

2. The LORD is _____ (see Ps. 139:7-1 1).

a. The LORD is present everywhere at the same time (see w. 71 1). His perfection demands this.

b. The LORD is transcendent (above; see Jer. 23:24; Eph. 1:20,21), and He is close to His creation (intimate; see Acts 17:27,28; Rev. 3:20).

c. The LORD's omnipresence means that He manifests His immensity, i.e. God's presence goes beyond space.

3. The LORD is _____ (see Ps. 139:12-16).

a. God can do everything within harmony of His nature-the impossible and improbable (see John 1 1: 1-44; 6:19). But God can't do things that are contrary to His nature, or the result of His own self-limitation (see 2 Tim. 2:13; Heb. 6:18; jas. 1: 13).

b. God's sovereignty is the result of His omnipotence.

D. Practical Application

1. The LORD is the God of Creation, but He is also "the LORD [who] *is* my shepherd" (Ps. 23:1), i.e. intimate, caring and responsive.

2. He is the LORD because He created us, so our response should be to:

a. _____ (see 2 Chron. 30:8; Rom. 6:13);

b. _____ (see Luke 11:1-4; 2:17:18; Rom. 1:16);

c. _____ (see Deut. 6:13; Ps. 100:2).

3. We can't prove the existence of God to others, but we demonstrate His love and care by our actions.

Discussion

A. Try to describe the LORD in your own words.

B. What is the best way to let others know what the LORD is like?

C. How can we grow in our understanding of the LORD?

Bible Student Video Outline

THE FATHER

Pater

The Intimate Name for God

Study 12

Bible Study

A. Introduction

1. The personification of all that God is in the Old Testament is found in the New Testament title for God as Father.

2. Jesus introduced a brand new relationship with God (see Matt. 6:9).

B. The Father

1. The Father is the first Person of the Trinity (equal in nature, separate in person, submissive in duty; see John 14:26).

2. The Father is not emphasized in the Old Testament. He is seen as an analogy, metaphor or simile (see Jer. 31:9).

3. The Father is reflected in the warmth of earthly families. In the spiritual family there is a kinship of all believers to each other and to God (see John 1: 12; 13:33; Philem. 1:7).

4. The Fatherhood of God, called "Universalism," claims that everyone is God's child. But this view denies:

   a. All are _____ (see Rom. 3:23);

   b. Eternal _____ for sin (see 6:23);

   c. Necessity of the substitutionary _____ of Christ (see 1 Pet. 3:18).

   d. Regeneration and conversion (see John 3:3; Acts 16:3 1).

5. Different ways the name of the Father is used in the New

Testament: See Luke 10:2 1; 1 1: 13; John. 5: 1 7; 6:2 7; 8:4 1; 17:11,25; Romans 1:7; 8:15; 15:6; 2 Corinthians 1:3; Ephesians 4:6; Hebrews 12:9; James 1: 17.

6. The favorite title for God used by Jesus is Father (Grk, *pater).* "Father" occurs 156 times in the Gospel of John.

C. God as Father

1. The Father of Creation-by virtue of the fact that He is the Creator (see Gen. 1:1).

2. The national Father of Israel, "I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn" Ger. 31:9). God is the source, teacher, authority, judge and provider for the nation.

3. The unique Father of Jesus Christ, 'Thou *art* my Son; this day have I begotten thee" (Ps. 2:7; see also Matt. 3:17; John 1:18; 3:16; 5:17).

4. Redemptive Father. All saved persons have a new relationship to God the Father. They are "born of God" John 1:13); "we cry, Abba, Father' (Rom. 8:15).

5. We are "sons of God' (8:14). We are "children of God" (1 John. 2:12; 3:10).

Children	**Sons**
New Nature	New Relationships
_____	Positional
State	_____
Earth	Heaven

As sons we have a perfect standing before God in heaven. As children we struggle on the earth.

D. The Nature and Duties of a Father

1. A father (parents) gives _____ to his children (physical and immaterial nature). When born again we get: God's life and nature (see John 3:15,36; 2 Cor. 5: 17); a new standing and new desires (see Rom. 8:14-16; Gal. 5:22,23); and become members of God's family (see John 13:33).

2. A father _____ his children. A loving God will do good things for His children (see Luke 11:13).

3. A father _____ his children. This is a natural desire of a good father. Even so,

God protects our relationship with Him (see John 10:28,29; see also Rom. 8:35-39).

3. A father will _____ for his children. 'Fathers, provoke not but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). To nurture is to provide positive training. God provides for our spiritual and material needs (see Eph. 3:8; Matt. 6:30-34).

E. The Heavenly Father and the Believer

1 . _____ with the Father. "Our fellowship is with the Father" (1 John. 1:3) "Our Father which art in heaven" (Matt. 6:9).

2. _____ to the Father. "We cry, Abba, Father" (Rom. 8: 1 5). "Your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things' (Matt. 6:32).

3. _____ by the Father. He will guide us if we let him (see Ps. 32:8; Prov. 3:5,6; John 16:13).

4. _____ from the Father. *"To be* conformed to the image of his Son' (Rom. 8:29; see also w. 28,32).

5. _____ of the Father. "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ' (Rom. 8:17). "In my Father's house are many mansions I go to prepare a place for you" Uohn. 14:2).

Discussion

A. Do you call God "Father" when you pray? Why?

B. Is it difficult for those with a poor father image to think of God as Father? Why?

C. How can we deepen our relationship with the Father?

How to Promote Fellowship in Your Group

What is one of the most effective tools for promoting a learning atmosphere **in** any group? Most leaders would agree that interaction among learners, as well as between the leader and the learners, is vital if your group is to go beyond the lecture/memorization phase of learning. But that interaction (or fellowship) doesn't just happen. It is usually up to the group leader to ignite the spark that gets the fellowship fires burning before the study begins.

The following activities are designed to encourage that atmosphere of warmth, acceptance and sharing among group members. Select or adapt one of these activities to precede each of the studies in a course. If you think some coffee and donuts might help, bring them along, too!

Beautiful Baby Contest: Have individuals tell what they looked like as babies and any humorous anecdotes that might be related.

Name Acrostic Motto: Give each person a sheet of colored paper and a felt pen. Have each person print his name vertically down the left margin. Then have each one make a motto for himself using all the letters of his first name. For example, a person named Gladys might choose the motto, "God loves and declares you sinless." After people have finished their mottoes, allow time for each to share his motto and its significance with the group.

Sentence Completion Exercise: Give everyone a sheet of paper and a pencil. Working alone have members finish the following three statements in a way that seems appropriate to them: God has..., God is God will Allow three to four minutes for working, then have them share their answers in small groups.

To Tell the Truth: Display the following incomplete sentence where all can see it: "To tell the truth, I once thought I could never but then....' Ask learners to tell how they would complete the sentence. This is to be the topic of conversation in groups of twos and threes.

Tennis Anyone?: As members arrive have them neighbor-nudge about the last competitive sports event in which they participated or paid to see; which sports they enjoy,- and/or which sports they least enjoy.

The Way It Was: Invite learners to gather in groups of three or four and share about the events that led up to each one's personal conversion to Christ.

I'm Lonely-. Have Bible students gather in clusters of three or four and share one experience when they were lonely and how they handled it.

Hero Analysis: Ask each person to think about his or her childhood hero. Then have members answer the following questions about the heroes they selected: (1) Why was this person a hero to you? (2) How did you try to imitate him/her? (3) Who is your hero today?

Meaningful Scriptures: Have volunteers share with the group a verse from the Bible that has been particularly meaningful to them within the last month. Be sure to have each person explain why the verses were meaningful to him/her.

Birthday Buddies: As learners arrive ask them to find a person in the group who has the birthday closest to their birthday. Then have them share with each other the most special birthday they can recall.

Expensive Giving.- Have individuals share with others in a small group the most expensive gift they ever received. Use the activity to remind the group of the gift of God's grace that was both costly to Him and priceless to man.

A Model Believer: Have group members gather in pairs. Ask each person to describe to his partner one Christian who was a positive influence on his life during the teenage years. Mention that those who intend to select either of their parents should also choose another model Christian outside of their respective families.

A Changing Point: Have people share with at least one other person the content of a book, article, TV or radio program that changed their attitude or point of view on an aspect of how they are living their lives this week.

Three Words from the Shepherd: Letter Psalm 23 on the chalkboard or overhead transparency. Have the group read it aloud together. Then ask individuals to select three consecutive words in the Psalm that are particularly meaningful to them right now (e.g., "He leadeth me," "shadow of death,", 'goodness and mercy," etc.). Then have volunteers share the three words they have chosen and a sentence of explanation.

Family Tradition: Have learners gather in groups of four and talk about one family tradition that they either practice now or that was especially meaningful during childhood years.

So Far So Good: Have group members share with each other the study that has been most meaningful to them so far and why.

What Would Jesus Drive?: Display this discussion question: "ff Jesus were living among the people in this group today, what kind of car would He drive and why?" Have people discuss in twos.

Inheritance Fantasy: Tell the group to imagine a rich uncle has just died leaving them $100,000 in his will with the stipulation that they must give it away. Ask individuals to find out from at least three people what they would do with the money.

Just Like Me: Write on a chalkboard or overhead transparency the following sentence for completion: "The Bible personality whom I am most like is because Ask learners to select the Bible personality they are most like and share their explanation with at least two people during the fellowship time.

Jackpot-in-the-Box: In advance, assemble a variety of small objects in a box such as: Safety pin, matchbook, key, spool of thread, cassette tape, spoon, dental floss. As the box is passed around the group, each learner is to take an object and explain how this object symbolizes his or her present walk with God.

Why Come?: Have members circulate in the group answering the question, Why do you attend this Bible study?

As I See It

Dear Leader,
Gospel Light is interested in your response to our all-in-one format for the Adult Bible Studies series designed to meet the needs of both the small group and classroom Bible studies. This questionnaire (for leader or teacher only) will help us design studies that meet the needs of you and your learners. In return for your completed questionnaire, Gospel Light will send you one of the FREE books shown that will be helpful in your leading and teaching endeavors. Please answer the following questions and return this questionnaire to:

Gospel Light Publications
Adult Curriculum Editor
2300 Knoll Drive
Ventura, California 93003

1. My choice for the FREE book is:

   Group Talk S411103
   Creative Bible Learning for Adults 9900152

2. How many Gospel Light Adult Bible Studies have you taught in the past year?

3. How often do you use the suggested a@ties from the Study Plan? Handout material?

   - in every study

   - in most studies

   - in a few studies

   - rarely

4. How often do group members use the Lesson Outlines?

   - in every study LI in most studies LI in a few studies LI rarely

5. How well did the Regal book and Study Plans prepare you to teach this course? I felt

   - very well prepared

- sufficiently prepared

- not prepared

- poorly prepared

6. Is the length of each chapter of the Regal book suitable for your lesson preparation? Is it:

   - usable as is

   - too lengthy

   - too brief

7. Is the length of the Study Plan suitable for use in your group study? Is it

   - usable as is

   - too lengthy

   - too brief

8. Did the Study Plan sheets, which provide a place for note-taking, serve you in any way?

9. If you used the video study, did you find the Leader's Video Outlines helpful to your lesson preparation? Were the Bible Student Video Outlines designed for group members usable?

10. Did group members use the Regal book in their personal preparation for each study?

    - often

    - sometimes

    - seldom

11. How would you describe your group?

    - Sunday School class
    - Midweek, church sponsored class

- Small group study

- Other

12. What is the average size of your group?

    - Under 10

    - 11-20

    - 21-35

    - over 35

13. What is the average age of your group members? LI 20-30

    - 30-40

    - 40-50

    - 5o-6o

    - 60-up

14. What subject would you like to teach?

Other comments:

Thank you for your input!