

Getting Started

In my sermon, I said that the name is not the big deal, but let’s think about names anyway. Why do you have your name? Is there a family significance to it? Some reason your parents gave it to you?

How about your children or others you know—any importance in their names?

Into the Bible

The first instance of naming in the Bible is in Genesis 3:20. What does the name *Eve* mean?

Notice the tense of Adam’s statement. What does her name look forward to?

Check out Genesis 17:17, 18:10-15, and 21:1-7. The name *Isaac* means, “He laughs.” How is the name appropriate both as a reflection of the past and of the present?

Samuel means, “The Lord heard.” Consider 1 Samuel 1:1-20 and 3:1-10. How is Samuel’s name doubly appropriate?

Isaiah 7:10-17 prophesies a baby named Immanuel. Check the footnote in your Bible for the meaning of Immanuel. How is God going to be with the Israelites in that moment?

Matthew 1:18-24 tells us about two names: *Jesus* and *Immanuel*. Once again, check the footnote in your Bible for information about the name *Jesus*. How does that name look backward into Israel’s history?

How is the name *Immanuel* even more appropriate for Jesus than for an 8th century BC king’s son?

Finally, read Philippians 2:9-11. What do you think it means that *at the name of Jesus* every knee will bow?

Digging Deeper

I like to say that names reflect *history* and *hope*. How does thinking about the name *Jesus* enrich your understanding of who He is and what He has done?