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The names of Jesus reveal the many facets of who He is, and knowing these names will lead us to know and adore Him.

The Twelve Names of Christmas makes it easy and fun for your family to learn about twelve of Jesus’ names. Free mine-to-make printables, appropriate for a variety of ages, offer countless ways for your children to connect with these names.

• Gather the kids around the kitchen table for a morning of Christmas crafts.

• Grab the sugar and flour to make our festive cupcake recipe, and read through the stories while they bake.

Whatever activity you choose, you’ll find that teaching your children about Jesus can be easy, practical, and fun. Please enjoy these ideas on ways to naturally incorporate truth into your family’s daily routine—all in an effort to ultimately connect your child to the Savior who was celebrated that first Christmas morn (see Leading a Child to Christ in back of book).
Writing Prompts

Simply offering your children the venue to express their thoughts, questions, and ideas about the names of Jesus can be quite valuable. Here are some writing prompts to help get your older children (8+) started thinking about and talking to the Savior. Hopefully, their responses will open a medium for discussion that allows you to deeply connect with them and point them back to each name of Jesus.

**Immanuel**

1. Write about a time when you felt alone. Next add to your memory, what it would’ve been like if during that time, even though you felt lonely, you knew someone was there with you—Immanuel.

2. Write about a time when you understood what Immanuel meant because you felt the presence of God with you.

3. How could you encourage a friend who is lonely?

**The Door**

1. Have you ever walked through the wrong door (maybe accidentally into the wrong restroom) or down the wrong path (gotten lost on your forest hike)? Write about how you felt when you chose the wrong way to go.

2. Have your parents encouraged you to invite someone over and welcome him or her into your home when you didn't feel like it? Write about why it was hard to welcome that person.

3. Describe a time when you've been warmly welcomed somewhere. How did it make you feel?
Writing Prompts Continued

**The Vine**
1. Describe someone who you are closely connected to. Tell why you’ve chosen to have a bond with him or her.

2. If you’ve ever picked apples, pears, or any other fruit from its tree, recall the memory in words here.

**Living Water**
1. Tell about a time when you had fun playing in water. It could be swimming, running through the sprinklers, a dip in the ocean, or something else.

2. Describe a time when water was refreshing to you. Connect that idea to how refreshing it could be to rest in Christ’s ongoing love for you.

**Light of the World**
1. Have you ever been afraid of the dark? If so, recall that time here. What helped ease your fears?

2. How would you feel if you had to get around in the darkness without a flashlight?

**Bright Morning Star**
1. Write about a time you “wished upon a star.” Add in how comforting it is to know there is one star we can actually put our hope in.

**Lion of Judah**
1. Explain how the power of a lion can be equally beautiful and fierce at the same time.

2. Write about the responsibility the lion has because of his great power.
Writing Prompts Continued

**Lamb of God**  
1. How have you felt when you’ve been accused of something wrong that you didn’t do? How did you respond to the accusation?  
2. Have you ever knowingly accused someone else of wrong that was not committed? How did you make your relationship right again?

**The Good Shepherd**  
1. Describe a time when someone did something to protect you from harm? How did that protection make you feel?

**King of Kings**  
1. If you were king for a day, what kind of decrees and rulings would you make? Why?  
2. Would you like the responsibility that comes with being king?

**Bread of Life**  
1. Describe your favorite meal. Include what makes it so special and why you enjoy it so much.  
2. Tell about the last time you stuffed yourself at a meal and how long it took for you to be hungry again.

**Savior**  
1. Tell about a day when you felt like you did everything right. You obeyed well, were kind to others, helped an old lady across the street, etc. Then add why or why not that day is enough to make you a good person.  
2. Have you ever known someone who seemed to have a perfect life? Describe that person here.
“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

—ISAIAH 7:14
"I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture."

—JOHN 10:9
“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

—John 15:5
“Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

—John 4:14
Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

—John 8:12
Bright Morning Star

“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

—Revelation 22:16
And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”

—Revelation 5:5
The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

—JOHN 1:29
the Good Shepherd

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

—JOHN 10:11
He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords...

—1 TIMOTHY 6:15
Bread of Life

“I am the bread of life.” —JOHN 6:48
“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”
—LUKE 19:10
Color ornaments, cut out around solid black line, and hole punch at dotted line. Loop a piece of ribbon or yarn through the hole and add the ornament to your tree.
Activities

Flash Cards

Use the flash cards on the following pages to help your child memorize the names of Jesus and the corresponding scriptures. For older children, use the set that has the full scripture on the back. For younger children, use the set that has the picture on one side and the name of Jesus on the other. If you have children of varying ages, start with the set for younger children and have the kids help each other until they can recite the whole verses used on the set for older kids.
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—Isaiah 7:14
"I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture."

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“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

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Living Water

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The Good Shepherd
King of Kings

He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords…

—1 Timothy 6:15

King of Kings
“I am the bread of life.”

—John 6:48
Savior

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”
–Luke 19:10

Savior
Recipes

Pinwheel Sandwich Christmas Tree

Ingredients
- 4 large (9- or 10-inch) spinach-flour tortillas or flat breads
- 1 ranch dressing package
- 16 ounces of sour cream
- 1 pound Monterey Jack or American cheese, shredded
- 1 block of cheese (for star ornament)
- 3/4 pound smoked turkey, thinly sliced
- 1/2 head green-leaf lettuce
- Grape tomatoes

Tools
- Toothpicks
- Star cookie cutter
- Rubber spatula
- Serrated knife
- Serving platter

Directions
1. Follow directions on the ranch package to mix ranch dressing/dip.

2. Lay the tortillas or flat bread on a flat working surface and lightly spread on them the ranch dip (a rubber spatula comes in handy for this). Now, top every tortilla with a layer each of shredded cheese and turkey. (Tip: When stacking ingredients, leave an inch margin along the top of the tortilla.)

3. Spread ranch dip on the turkey layers. Add layer of lettuce. Snugly roll up the sandwiches, ending with the loose edges underneath. Roll the tortilla toward the edge to keep the filling from falling out.

4. With a serrated knife, cut each roll-up into 1 1/4-inch-wide pinwheels and insert a toothpick to hold each one together.

5. On a serving platter, arrange the pinwheels in rows to create a Christmas tree. Garnish with star-shaped cheese for the topper (cut out with a small cookie cutter) and use the grape tomatoes as ornaments.
Recipes

Snowman Cheese Ball

Ingredients

- 16 ounces cream cheese
- 2 cups shredded Italian cheese blend
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
- 10 black olives for eyes, mouth, and buttons, sliced
- 1 piece of carrot for the nose
- 1 cracker for the hat and one-inch thick slice of carrot
- Strips of carrot for the scarf
- 2 celery sticks for the arms
- Toothpicks

Directions

1. In a large bowl, let the cream cheese soften at room temperature for about 30 minutes. Stir in the garlic salt, onion powder, and half the shredded cheese. Then cover the bowl with plastic wrap and chill for 2 hours.

2. Make the snowman by rolling two thirds of the cheese into 2 balls for his body and the other third into a ball for his head. Roll the balls in the remaining shredded cheese. Stack the balls, inserting toothpicks through the center. Let your children use the remaining ingredients to create the snowman's features and clothing.
Recipes

Turkey, Ham, and Cheese Mini Toasts

Ingredients
- 1 package mini toasts
- Mayonnaise or sandwich spread (optional)
- 2 slices of ham
- 2 slices of turkey (or chicken)
- 4 slices of cheese

Directions
Cut ham and turkey into squares. Spread mini toasts with mayonnaise and top with turkey, ham, or chicken.

Cut cheese into 32 squares and place on top of the meat on each mini toast.

Bake at 350°F for 5–10 minutes or until cheese is melted.

For children, allow four mini toasts per child as a snack (and four leftover for the cook!). Otherwise, you can make multiple batches of these mini toasts to work as adult entrees at a Christmas party or function.

Note:
You can vary toppings and spreads depending on the kids’ likes and dislikes. This would be a fun way to use leftover turkey or ham after holiday dinner.
Recipes

Christmas Hot Cocoa

Ingredients
- 1 tablespoon cocoa powder
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1 cup milk
- 2 tablespoons whipped cream
- Red hots, red and green M&Ms candy, or maraschino cherries

Directions
Stir together the cocoa, sugar, and water in a small saucepan. Keep the heat on low, stirring occasionally to keep from burning. After 1 to 2 minutes, add the milk. Stir with a whisk until foamy and heated through. Pour into a mug. Top with whipped cream and your choice of candy. This recipe can easily be doubled or quadrupled to make a family-sized serving.

Kiddie Sparkling Juice

Ingredients
- 64 fluid ounces cranberry juice
- 4 liters lemon-lime flavored carbonated beverage
- 3 oranges, sliced into rounds
- 1 lemon, sliced into rounds
- 8 cups crushed ice

Directions
In a large punch bowl, combine cranberry juice and orange and lemon slices. Pour in the lemon-lime beverage and crushed ice. Serve immediately.
Recipes

Cupcake Decorating

Most kids love decorating and eating cupcakes and this activity can be used as a party game or a family night activity. Use our suggestions to create one cupcake for each of the twelve ornaments. Feel free to make substitutions where necessary to keep things simple and fun for your family.

Ingredients
- Pack of Starburst candy
- About half a cup toasted, shredded coconut
- About half a cup of shredded coconut
- Package of Airheads or taffy (You will need one white piece, others can be any color.)
- Gumdrops (red, white/clear, yellow, and green)
- Chocolate-covered raisins (can substitute chocolate chips)
- 2 mini marshmallows
- Pound cake
- Yellow Wilton candy melts
- Jelly beans: white, yellow
- Blue jello jigglers
- Mini candy cane
- Purple M&Ms or Skittles
- Red Vines Licorice
- Optional: brown gel food coloring, clear sanding sugar

Tools
- Toothpicks
- Birthday candle and matches
- Star-shaped cookie cutter
- Butter knife
- Parchment paper
- Pencil
- Piping bag or zip top bag
Cupcake Decorating Continued

**Immanuel: Baby Jesus in the manger**

Spread a layer of frosting on one cupcake. Press toasted coconut into the wet frosting on the top of the cupcake, leaving a small area of frosting in the middle for the candy baby to stick. Take a piece of a pink Starburst and piece of a yellow Starburst and knead together to form a small ball. Add more of the pink or the yellow until you achieve something close to a skin tone. (Optional: Add some brown gel food coloring to the candy and continuing to form a ball.) Set aside and allow the ball to cool and firm up. Slide two mini marshmallows onto a toothpick to form the body of baby Jesus. Slide the top of the toothpick into the ball to make the head. Take a roughly 1-inch by 3-inch piece of white Airheads candy and wrap it around the marshmallow body so it looks like a baby wrapped in a blanket. Place the baby on the coconut “hay.”

**The Door**

Spread a layer of frosting on the cupcake. Have your child choose which color of Airheads candy he wants the door to be. Open the candy and press it out onto a cutting board. Using the butter knife, cut a door shape out of the candy. You can make a rounded top to match the illustration or use your imagination. Use the back side of the butter knife to press details, like wood grain or door panels, into the candy. Slice the top off of a gum drop and press the sticky side to the door where a door knob would be. Place your door on the cupcake.

**The Vine: Cluster of grapes with leaves and stem**

Spread a layer of frosting on the cupcake. Take purple candies and place them in an upside-down triangle on the cupcake. Then pipe small dots of frosting in between the candies and add another layer so the triangle begins to look like a cluster of grapes. Cut a green gumdrop in half and pinch the ends together to form a leaf shape. Press the two leaves into the frosting at the top of the grape cluster. Press the Red Vines stem into the top of the cupcake near the leaves.
Cupcake Decorating Continued

**Living Water: Blue Jello Jiggler cubes**

Make Jello Jigglers according to the package directions. Slice into squares or wave shapes and place on top of a frosted cupcake. If you are feeling extra creative, you can sculpt a pitcher out of taffy to place beside the gelatin.

**Light of the World: Lit candle**

This one is easypeasy! Place a birthday candle in a cupcake and light.

**Bright Morning Star**

Use a small star cookie cutter to cut a piece of taffy or Airheads. Or you can use yellow candy melts to make a star shape and sprinkle with sanding sugar. Place the star on the cupcake.

**Lion of Judah: Lion face**

Spread a layer of frosting on the next cupcake and roll the edges in the toasted coconut to make a mane. Slice a chocolate-covered raisin in half and press each half (cut side down) into the frosting to form eyes. Cut a small sliver off the top of a red gumdrop for the nose. Pipe two medium-sized dots just under the nose to form the muzzle. (Alternatively, you can use two halves of a clear gumdrop to form the muzzle.) Use a tiny piece of the red gumdrop to make a mouth and place it under the muzzle. Cut a yellow gumdrop in half lengthwise to make the lion’s ears. Press the ears into the mane.
Cupcake Decorating Continued

Lamb of God: Lamb face
Spread a layer of frosting on the cupcake and press the frosted top into the coconut to give the lamb a “woolly” face. Slice a chocolate-covered raisin in half and press each half (cut side down) into the frosting to form eyes. Cut a small triangle off the corner of a pink Starburst for the lamb’s nose and press into the frosting. Cut a clear gumdrop in half lengthwise to make the ears. Press white jelly beans into the top third of the cupcake, leaving room for the gumdrop ears.

The Good Shepherd: Shepherd’s Crook
Place an unwrapped mini candy cane on top of a frosted cupcake. You’re done!

King of Kings: Crown
Draw a simple crown shape on a piece of parchment paper and turn the paper over. Melt the yellow candy melts in the microwave and pour into a piping bag. Snip the end of the bag off and pipe along the outline of the crown. After the outline firms up, fill in the crown with the melted candy. Sprinkle sanding sugar on the crown to give it some sparkle. Press cut pieces of red and green gum drops into the crown to make jewels. Allow the crown to cool and then peel off the parchment paper and place on frosted cupcake.

Bread of Life
Cut small pieces of store-bought pound cake into slices and top the frosted cupcake. You could also use a piece of sandwich bread or a leftover dinner roll.
Recipes

Cupcake Decorating Continued

Savior: Cross

Use yellow jelly beans to make a cross shape on top of a frosted cupcake.