

The Names of God

A five-week study in God's self-revelation
rooted in Mark 1
for the season of Epiphany.



God, as a whole, is immeasurable, incomprehensible, totally indescribable. No one word can fully describe who God is, or what God is capable of doing. He is infinite; far beyond our ability to comprehend.

Yet, in his generosity, God shows himself to us in a variety of ways – again, more than we can hold. Sometimes he announces himself, like to Abraham or Moses. Other times, it is left for us to observe, as in the Creation. God is the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, all at once, and yet all distinctly; just as God is the Creator and YHWH and Emmanuel.

As we journey through Mark 1 this winter, may it be with eyes open to see the breadth of who God is and who God promises to be. May we emerge with our faith strengthened by the knowledge of his persistent presence in our lives.

Week One

Enter In

Read Mark 1:12-13 and Luke 4:1-13. Notice the ways God is revealed in this text. Which of God's names are being shown? Perhaps you see some of these, or perhaps others?

Bread of Life ✧ *"I am the Living Bread that comes down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."
– John 6:51*

The God Who Is Near ✧ *"Am I a God near by," says the Lord, "and not a God far off? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them?" says the Lord.
"Do I not fill heaven and earth?"
– Jeremiah 23:23*

Lord of Hosts ✧ *The Lord of Hosts is with us.
The God of Jacob is our refuge. – Psalm 46:7*

Encounter

What's your story? Has God worn one of these names in your life recently? How has knowing this Name for God affected the way you pray? How might it?

Pray

Thank God for drawing near to us and pray for a deepened faith.

*"I will signal for them and gather them in,
For I have redeemed them,
And they shall be as numerous as they were before.
Though I scattered them among the nations,
Yet in far countries they shall remember me,
And they shall rear their children and return." – Zechariah 10:8-9*

Week Two

Enter In

Read Mark 1:14-20. Notice the ways God is revealed in this text. Which of God's names are being shown? Perhaps you see this one, or perhaps others?

The Lord, My Shepherd ✧ Adonai Rohi

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. – Psalm 23:1

"I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father." – John 10:14-15

Encounter

What's your story? Has God worn one of these names in your life recently? How has knowing this Name for God affected the way you pray? How might it?

Pray

Ask God where he is calling you to follow him.

Week Three

Enter In

Read Mark 1:21-28. Notice the ways God is revealed in this text. Which of God's names are being shown? Perhaps you see some of these, or perhaps others?

The Holy One ✧ *“To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal?”
Says the Holy One. – Isaiah 40:25*

*Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God Almighty,
Who was and is and is to come. – Revelation 5:8*

Spirit of God ✧ **Ruach Elohim**

And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of the violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. – Acts 2:2-4

Encounter

What's your story? Has God worn one of these names in your life recently? How has knowing this Name for God affected the way you pray? How might it?

Pray

Pray that the Holy Spirit continues its sanctifying work in you.

"I am asking on their behalf... Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one." – John 17:9, 11b

Week Four

Enter In

Read Mark 1:29-39. Notice the ways God is revealed in this text. Which of God's names are being shown? Perhaps you see some of these, or perhaps others?

The Lord, the Healer ✧ **Adonai Rophe**

See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them... He will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away. – Revelation 21:3-4

Our Great

High Priest ✧

For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. – Hebrews 4:15

Encounter

What's your story? Has God worn one of these names in your life recently? How has knowing this Name for God affected the way you pray? How might it?

Pray

Ask God for healing in yourself, your community, and the world.

Week Five

Enter In

Read Mark 1:40-45. Notice the ways God is revealed in this text. Which of God's names are being shown? Perhaps you see some of these, or perhaps others?

The Lord Who Sanctifies You ✧ Adonai Mekoddishkem

But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

– 1 Corinthians 6:11

Light to the Nations ✧ Oer Goyim

"I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness...

I have given you as a covenant to the people,

A light to the nations,

To open the eyes of the blind,

To bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,

From the prison those who sit in darkness." – Isaiah 42:6-7

Encounter

What's your story? Has God worn one of these names in your life recently? How has knowing this Name for God affected the way you pray? How might it?

Pray

Offer yourself to God for the building of his Kingdom.



This study was produced by staff at Second CRC Grand Haven.
All scripture is cited from the NRSV.

Bibliography:

“Praying Through the Names of God” – Tony Evans

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Groups” – Anne Spangler

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