



If parents have good reasons for the names they give their children, how much more does God? The Christmas narratives in Matthew and Luke reveal those names, and those names reveal the gospel!

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 As we dive into this series talk for a moment about the significance of names. Share some examples of how names have been important in your family (where did your name come from and/or if you are a parent why did you choose a name for one of your children?).

2 **Read Luke 1:30-33 and Matthew 1:20-21.** What catches your attention most in these two birth announcements? What do you learn about Jesus from these verses?

3 **“JESUS”... is a name we can believe in.** Rick pointed out that *Jesus did not come to be a therapist, a social activist, or a moral ethicist; he came to “save his people from their sins.”* Why is that such an important distinction to remember? How has believing in the name of Jesus impacted the way you live? Follow up: **Read 1 John 3:21-24.** What stands out to you the most from this passage?

4 **BELIEVING IN HIS NAME... means confessing that we are sinners who cannot save ourselves.** *We are all quick to acknowledge that we are regular “mistakers”, but we are slow to see ourselves as wretched sinners, especially as we compare ourselves to others.* Why is it so hard for us to acknowledge that we are sinners? How have you struggled with this recently? Follow up: Why is it important to realize that *people don’t need repairing; they need redeeming?*

5 **BELIEVING IN HIS NAME... means trusting Jesus alone as our sufficient Savior.** *All other religions reveal what people can do to save themselves. Christ reveals what God had to do to save people.* **Read John 3:16 and 1 John 4:10-14.** Rick reminded us that “believe” is a strong word meaning to “lean our whole weight on.” Why is that so significant for your relationship with Jesus? Follow up: How has knowing that God took the initiative in His love for you deepened your love for Him?

6 **BELIEVING IN HIS NAME... means embracing his salvation as a present and future reality.** *Too many people are trusting Jesus only for life on the other side of the grave.* **Read Romans 6:3-6 and 8:2-3.** In what practical ways do these verses remind you that Jesus didn’t just save you “from hell” but “from your sins”? Follow up: How is *Christmas a standing invitation to a life of freedom* (see **Colossians 3:17**)? Share an example of how you’ve experienced this in your life.

7 **JESUS... will always live up to his name.** What are some specific ways we can praise the name of Jesus this Christmas season? Follow up: Who is one person in your life who needs to hear and accept the name of Jesus? Spend some time praying over those names.

