

"Knowing Jesus More Intimately Through His Names"

Week 1: Session Guide

***"Be still, and know that I am God."
Psalm 46:10 (ESV)***

2024 Morning Women's Bible Study at The Cove

Knowing Jesus More Intimately Through His Names

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Genesis 1:1: *“In the beginning, God”* (Elohim – Hebrew: Plural-Trinity)

El Olam: *“The Everlasting God”* or *“God of Eternity”* (Genesis 17:7 – Abrahamic Covenant).

“For this God is our God forever and ever; He will be our guide even to the end.” Psalm 48:14 (NIV)

Jehovah Shammah: **“THE LORD IS THERE”** (Ezekiel 48:35)

“But your iniquities have separated you from your God.” Isaiah 59:2 (NIV)

But God...

John 1:1 (NIV): *“In the beginning was **the Word**, and **the Word** was with God, and **the Word** was God.”*

John 1:14 (NIV): *“**The Word** became flesh and made his dwelling among us.”*

Matthew 1:22-23 (NIV): *“All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet [Isaiah 7:14]: ‘The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel’ (which means ‘God with us’).”*

In the Old Testament (Hebrew) **Immanuel**: **im**: ‘with’ + **ānū**: ‘us’ + **ēl**: God

In the New Testament (Greek): **Emmanuel** is written with an “E”

References: Old Testament: Isaiah 7:14, 8:8, 8:10 | New Testament: Matthew 1:23

There is a seamless story that prevails from Genesis to Revelation; a tender, tenacious tale that declares God’s heart for humanity and His everlasting covenant.

“I have loved you with an everlasting love.”

Jeremiah 31:3 (NIV)

Knowing Jesus More Intimately Through His Names

Week 1: Growth Opportunity

Day 1: In this year's Bible study, we'll see **God's heart** for humanity and His consistent, sacrificial love for mankind revealed through Jesus. However, we'll also see mankind's heart for God: inconsistent and inclined to be spiritually "wayward" and often dismissive of God's Word and His will, egocentric (self-centered) versus theocentric (God-centered).

Today, pause in the Scriptures printed below in prayerful, personal time with God. May **Psalm 26:2** be your heartfelt prayer: ***"Test me, LORD, and try me, examine my heart and my mind."*** Invite God to fully inhabit your heart, revealing anything that's hinders your relationship with Him. How tender it is that God doesn't reveal our sin and waywardness to condemn us. Romans 8:1 declares: *"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."* Rather, He desires to draw us unto Himself so that we can embrace His invitation to be "washed" clean, fully forgiven, reconciled to Him, and daily conformed more into His image as we draw near to Him. I hope you're ready to clean out any "clutter" that hinders your relationship with God. He has *so much more* of Himself that He desires to impart to your heart.

If you do not have a personal relationship with God, I encourage you to contact the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association at **888-388-2683**. Share your desire and/or questions regarding a personal relationship with God so that *this very day* you can experience being reconciled to Him; fully forgiven, and made new through Christ (*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!"* [2 Corinthians 5:17]).

The prayer of Psalm 26:2 postures us before God afresh as we invite Him to bring to our awareness anything that needs to be confessed (acknowledged to Him) and repented of (turned from). Be alert; resist taking to heart *"whispers from the pit"* (lies that imply: "you're a failure, defeated, worthless, a disappointment, or that God doesn't care about you"). These whispers do not come from God, nor do they reflect God's heart for you. Anyone who invites Jesus into their heart is fully reconciled to God because of what Christ did on the cross. Nothing can undo or overcome what God has declared: *"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand"* (John 10:28). As we clean out sin (spiritual clutter) so that our hearts are more fully available to God, we are able to experience His incredible, eternal (**olam**) love and the fruit of His indwelling spirit (Galatians 5).

Ephesians 2:8, 9 (NIV): *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."*

Isaiah 1:18 (NIV): *"Come now, let us settle the matter," says the Lord. 'Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.'"*

1 John 1:9 (NIV): *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."*

Psalm 7:17: *"I will give thanks to the LORD [Yahweh] because of his righteousness [Jehovah Tsidkenu]; I will sing the praises of the name of the LORD Most High [El Elyon]."*

(Names in brackets have been inserted)

Hallelujah! (Translated means: **Praise [Hallel] Yahweh [Yah]**) God, through His Son, made a way for us to be forgiven, washed spotless, and reconciled to Him who is holy, righteous, merciful, forgiving. Conclude your time today in praise for this INCREDIBLE, life-changing TRUTH!

Personal Reflections:

Day 2: As I write today's Growth Opportunity, it's Palm Sunday: a sunny, cool, breezy day. My thoughts/heart have hovered upon the first Palm Sunday (John 12:1-13), as Jesus made His entry into Jerusalem — an event mentioned in each of the four Gospels and prophesied in Zechariah 9:9. Palm fronds, a symbol of victory, triumph, and peace, rustled as they were waved in the air before paving the path under the hooves of the donkey upon which Jesus rode. (A donkey: a sign of humility and symbol of Christ himself who bore the burdens of others).

John 12:13: *"They took branches of palm trees and went forth to meet him, and cried, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'"*

For Christians, Palm Sunday is a reminder of the welcoming of Jesus into our hearts and of our willingness to follow him. This is a great place to begin your time today. Pause and collect your thoughts; hold them unto Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5). Identify those things He is inviting you to lay down before Him; to entrust to Him. These may include thoughts or feelings of defeat, discontent, fear, hopelessness; lies that whisper "unloved," "unworthy," "unwanted," "stuck"; sin you have allowed to linger. God declares in Jeremiah 31:3: "I have loved you with an everlasting (Olam) love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness." Can you identify any deceptive "intruders (lies)" that need to be ousted from your heart, mind, actions?

Lay these barren wastelands before God; for the One who calls you **loves you**, and is near (James 4:7-8). Now, breathe in this truth from Lamentations 3:22-24:

This is INCREDIBLE!! As we live with this reality engraved upon our hearts and firmly fixed in our thoughts, truth blows a fresh wind into our lives: the life-giving breath of God. From Session 1, there is a key TRUTH that is worth repeating, found in Matthew 28:20: _____

What is the "expiration date" of this promise? _____ As you close your time with God, firmly embrace this incredible truth in your heart: **GOD LOVES YOU AND IS WITH YOU... ALWAYS!**

Personal Reflections:

“After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: ‘Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.’” Revelation 7:9-10

Day 3: As you begin today’s Growth Opportunity, take time to note what you’ve gleaned about God’s heart for humanity (you):

What impact does it have on you that God and His promises are “*Olam*,” everlasting?

Today, look up a few powerful promises declared by God and note their key points:

Deuteronomy 31:6 _____

Psalms 46:1-3; 7 _____

Psalms 34:4 _____

Isaiah 41:10 _____

Romans 12:2 _____

We are changed from the inside out as we adjust our thoughts to God’s Word: timeless truth. **Despite trials, tests, and tumultuous times; God is always with us!**

TRUTH + TRUST Yields TRANSFORMATION

Day 4: Start today by looking up Isaiah 55:8

As well as 2 Corinthians 5:7

What do you glean from these two passages?

In Session 1, we acknowledged God’s “olam”(everlasting) heart for humanity and His desire to reconcile us unto Himself, that we may live for—and with—Him forever. His solution to man’s spiritual dilemma (sin: *“For all have sinned and fall short...”* [Romans 3:23]) was first revealed in a prophetic declaration found in Isaiah 7:14:

Now read Mathew 1:18-24. Note key points that stand out to you:

The reality of 2 Corinthians 5:7, walking by faith, positions us for intimacy with God and for spiritual stamina, as well as for ongoing opportunities to point others to Him.

700 years after Isaiah’s prophetic declaration, a virgin from Nazareth conceived as the Holy Spirit came upon her and she bore a son (*“So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel’ (which means ‘God with us’).”* [Matthew 1:22-23]). God is faithful and will bring to pass what He says. Read Luke 2:1-21 *carefully/prayerfully*. What stands out to you?

The fulfillment of God’s promise displays His timing, *unfathomable* creativity, faithfulness, and *unwavering* love. Scripture repeatedly declares His heart for humanity as displayed through His provision of a way for mankind to be reconciled unto Him in an *everlasting* relationship. Conclude your time today with praise and thanksgiving; indeed, *God loves you so very much!*

Day 5: In our opening session, we heard of Israel’s repeated rebellion towards God. They worshipped idols, giving their affection to lesser things. Are there “lesser things” that seek your heart?

Look again at Psalm 26:2; Sin must be dealt with. Note God’s promise: 1 John 1:9 _____

As we continue to look at God’s unfathomable creativity, read Luke 2:22-40. What stands out to you?

Simeon waited in faith; trusting that God would fulfill all that He had said.

God stands by His Word. Hold tightly to the reality of “**Immanuel**.” Whatever you are facing in your journey, God is with you; He promises to never leave or forsake you. Remember Romans 12:2 – we are transformed as we adjust our thoughts to truth. May God strengthen and steady your steps today as you conclude your time embracing the truths declared in Deuteronomy 31:8:

If it’s not too cold, consider going for a Praise Walk to press into His precious promises! May God capture your heart afresh with His everlasting, Olam love.

“I have loved you with an everlasting love.”

Jeremiah 31:3 (NIV)