

Jesus Name Game

Preparation

- Cut out boxes on handout *Names for Jesus*. Enlarge them if necessary.

Materials

- Handout: *Names for Jesus*
- Handout: *Understanding Jesus' Names* (at least one per family)
- Newsprint
- Markers

Activity Plan

1. Introduce this learning experience with these or similar words: *Some people say that we can only be saved by the name of Jesus. Well, if that's true, then there are many ways to be saved because Jesus has many names. The Christmas readings call us to reflect upon the many names and titles of Jesus. We're going to play a silly game to learn some of the names and titles of Jesus that we hear in the Christmas readings.*
2. *Before we play the game, I have a sample of the game that we will do first. Show the participants the sample phrase from handout *Names for Jesus* (Eye hem pea king mine owes). Tell participants that there is a hidden phrase in these words that actually makes sense. Invite a participant to say the words in the sample phrase. Ask other participants if they think they know what he/she is trying to say. In other words, what is the hidden phrase? Ask the person saying the phrase to say it a few times until someone discovers that he/she is trying to say, "I am picking my nose."*
3. Invite a volunteer to come forward to say a phrase.
4. Before the volunteer says the phrase, show both the phrase and the translation from handout *Names for Jesus* to the other participants. Tell them not to tell the volunteer what the translation is. Challenge the volunteer to say the scrambled phrase over and over until he/she figures out exactly what the translated phrase is. The other participants will get a laugh out of the sound of the phrase as the volunteer works with it.
5. After the volunteer guesses the phrase correctly, write the phrase on a piece of newsprint and explain its significance in relation to Jesus. Handout: *Understanding Jesus' Names* can be your guide during the explanations.
6. Recruit a new volunteer for each phrase and repeat steps four and five.
7. Close by distributing a copy of handout *Understanding Jesus' Names* to each household.
8. Invite participants to say each name or title of Jesus in the order that they appear on the handout in response to you when you say, "We praise you..." For example, you say "we praise you," and the participants all respond, "Emmanuel." Continue this pattern for all eight names/titles.

Understanding Jesus' Names

1. Emmanuel	Name that means "God is with us." Jesus is the full presence of God in human form.
2. Wonder Counselor	<p>These four titles come from the ninth chapter of Isaiah and refer to a prophecy about a coming king. Christians associate these titles with the birth of Jesus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jesus is not just a counselor, but a counselor of wonder – a counselor of mystery. ▪ Jesus is not just a hero like a military hero, but a hero in the ways of God. ▪ Jesus is not just a leader who will care for the people like a loving father, but his fatherly care will never end. ▪ Finally, Jesus is not just a prince, but a prince who will bring lasting peace.
3. God hero	
4. Father forever	
5. Prince of peace	
6. Only son of God	Son of God is a title given to many in the Old Testament such as kings, angels and even the people of God, but John's gospel calls Jesus the Only Son of God to distinguish Jesus from all others who have claimed the title of son. We are all sons and daughters of God, but not in the same way that Jesus is.
7. Jesus Christ our savior	The name Jesus means "God saves." His name is an indicator of his purpose and mission – to save God's people from sin.
8. Jesus Christ is Lord	Lord is the loftiest title given to Jesus. Lord is the New Testament word for the Old Testament name of God which is Yahweh. When we profess that Jesus is Lord, we are ultimately identifying Jesus as one with God and; therefore, Jesus is worthy of our worship.