

What names did Jesus call God by?

In this lesson, circle or underline the name Jesus uses for God. What does this reveal and how does it affect Believers?

1. How would you describe someone as being great? What do you observe about Jesus' description?

But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. (Matt 5:34-35, ESV)

At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; (Matt 11:25, ESV)

2. While answering the greatest commandment of God, what does Jesus reveal about Him?

And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'" (Mark 12:27-29, ESV)

3. In response to the Sadducees, who did not believe in the resurrection of the dead, what does Jesus call God and what does He reveal?

But Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not God of the dead, but of the living." (Matt 22:29-32, ESV)

4. What do you observe about Jesus' name for God? How does this affect Believers?

But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. (Luke 6:35-36, ESV)

5. Facing the prospect of death to pay for the penalty of sin for all of mankind, Jesus makes a personal appeal to God. What do you observe of His relationship to God?

And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." (Mark 14:36, ESV)

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matt 27:46, ESV)

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Teacher Notes

In this lesson, circle or underline the name Jesus uses for God. What does this reveal and how does it affect Believers?

This lesson introduces the student to Greek words and see the New Testament in another dimension. As the student discusses each question, the teacher can add additional information to stimulate his thought and further his understanding in a larger biblical context.

1. How would you describe someone as being great? What do you observe about Jesus' description?

But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God (**theos**), or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great (**megas**) King (**basileus**). (Matt 5:34-35, ESV)

At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord (**kyrios**) of heaven (**ouranos**) and earth (**gē**), that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; (Matt 11:25, ESV)

God (Theos) - In the New Testament, "theos" is the most frequent designation for God. The Greek noun places an emphasis on God being the One and only true God.

Great King (Megas Basileus) - In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus speaks of avoiding oaths, even swearing by the city Jerusalem, because it is the city of the acclaimed (i.e. great in quality, honor, power, glory) King.

Lord of Heaven and Earth (Kyrios Ouranos Ge) - In His condemnation of three Galilean cities, who did not repent despite witnessing His most significant miracles, Jesus praises God, Lord of the heavenly expanse, for His plan of revealing Himself to those who did not have preconceived notions that would prevent them from recognizing the reality of God through Jesus.

2. While answering the greatest commandment of God, what does Jesus reveal about Him?

And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord (**kyrios**) our God (**theos**), the Lord (**kyrios**) is one (**heis**). And you shall love the Lord (**kyrios**) your God (**theos**) with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'" (Mark 12:27-29, ESV)

Lord Our God (Kyrios Theos), **Lord is One** (Kyrios Heis) - When Jesus uses "kyrios" with the Shema (the phrase "Hear O Israel"), it is especially significant to the Jews, because it connects the Old Testament (covenant) with the New (covenant). The God whom the Christians worship is the same God as the Patriarchs, the same God of the Exodus and the same God of Israel.

3. In response to the Sadducees, who did not believe in the resurrection of the dead, what does Jesus call God and what does He reveal?

But Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: 'I am the God (theos) of Abraham, and the God (theos) of Isaac, and the God (theos) of Jacob'? He is not God (**theos**) of the dead, but of the living (**zaō**).'" (Matt 22:29-32, ESV)

God of the Living (Theos Zao) - Jesus makes clear to the Sadducees that there is a future life with the resurrection; when a Believer dies, he continues to exist. God is the God of the living.

4. What do you observe about Jesus' name for God? How does this affect Believers?

But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. (Luke 6:35-36, ESV)

Most High (Hypsistos) - In the Sermon of the Mount, Jesus presents Christian behavior, that might be perceived socially as weak, as being worthy of a son of the mighty God who is powerful in action. The implication is that genuine love is magnanimous.

5. Facing the prospect of death to pay for the penalty of sin for all of mankind, Jesus makes a personal appeal to God. What do you observe of His relationship to God?

And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." (Mark 14:36, ESV)

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Father (Abba) - When communicating personally to God, Jesus uses names for God that reflect the intimacy of their divine relationship like a term of endearment.

My God (Eli) - The Hebrew noun "el" has the generic meaning of god; however, Jesus uses this term in the context of the One and only God. The long "i" ending grammatically indicates the first person possessive which translates Jesus' cry on the cross "eli", "My God." In contrast to "abba Father," Jesus' cry "My God" acknowledges the majesty and sovereignty of the Holy God.