

A Year with Jesus
Week 1: Jesus

Read Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 1:26-33

The name “Jesus” is the Greek form of “Joshua” and was a common Jewish name. It literally means, “the Lord is salvation,” or, “God saves.”

1. What do the verses above say about *why* God commanded Mary and Joseph to name their baby, “Jesus?”
 2. In what ways did Jesus fulfill the meaning of his name?
 3. What do the following verses say about “the name” of Jesus?
 - Acts 4:12
 - Acts 10:42-43
 - Luke 24:46-47
 - John 20:31
 4. There is a hymn that declares, “Jesus, there’s just something about that name.” From reading the New Testament, we know the Apostles not only preached and taught in the name of Jesus, but also were able to cast out demons and heal people “in the name of Jesus.” What does the name, “Jesus” mean to you? Why?
 5. Christian author, Josh MacDowell once suggested that people could go to a cocktail party and discuss great thinkers of the past and religious figures such as the Buddha or Confucius without an eyebrow being raised, but as soon as the name of Jesus was mentioned, the party would come to a screeching halt. Do you agree with that? Why or why not? (If so, why do you think that would happen?)
 6. We know it is not merely the name of Jesus, but the person connected with it who has the power to forgive sin, heal the sick, and drive out demons. What does the Bible say about how a person can know Jesus and gain access to the power associated through his name?
 7. Does it encourage you to know that God did not remain aloof from his creation, but entered our world – into our very lives – through the person of his Son, Jesus? Why or why not? Describe the difference it has made in your life to be able to call upon the name of Jesus.
 8. Take some time throughout this week to reflect upon “the name of Jesus” and give thanks to him for how he has worked (and continues to work) in your life.
- Is your Jesus your temporal and eternal hope?