

Life Group Curriculum

SHARE AN EXPERIENCE:

Share with the group about your name or a nickname that has some significance in your life. Who were you named after? How did you get your name or nickname? What does your name mean, if you know?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Last week we continued in Chapter 4 of 2 Corinthians where we found Paul describing some of the very difficult times in his life and how he embraced his suffering to be closer to Christ. It's timely to hear that message as we enter the Christmas season. Life and hard times do not always take a break so we can all have a peaceful Christmas! Getting closer to Christ is certainly what we are supposed to remember at this time! This week we started a 3 WEEK SERIES on CHRISTMAS, starting off with the NAME OF JESUS. Let's dig deeper.

Answer as many questions as time allows:

1. Take a moment to share with the group what stood out to you most from this week's message.
2. **Isiah 9:6 (ESV)** "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulders, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Share with the group the names of Jesus that you can recall. Share with the group what we can learn from these names and descriptions of Jesus.
- 3 **Re-read Philippians 2:9-10 (CEV)** "Then God gave Christ the highest place and honored his name above all others. So that the name of Jesus, everyone will bow, those in heaven, on earth, and under the earth." We all need to know and understand that there is real, life changing, POWER, in the name of JESUS. Powerful enough to do absolutely every single thing you need in this life... REMEMBER! **Absolutely Nothing is impossible for JESUS!** Share with the group something that you feel Jesus helped you get through or move past this year.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:

Isaiah 9:6, 7:14; Philippians 2:9-10; Luke 1:31, 2:11; John 1:29; Acts 4:12; Romans 5:18-19; Colossians 1:20-23

MEMORY VERSE:

Matthew 1:21 - "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

FOR PERSONAL DEVOTIONAL (OPTIONAL):

1. Join us in prayer this week for the Name of JESUS to be in lights and on display for the World to see, not just at Radiant Church but everywhere. We are those lights! Pray for the boldness and confidence to shine your bright light on the name of Jesus wherever we go, in the way we behave and with the words we speak and the thoughts we think. Pray for those that are sick and needy that they are cared for, provided for, healed, and loved this Christmas and moving forward into the new year. Pray for JESUS to be the true focus of this season and not the material things that are everywhere around us.
2. The Bible reveals to us the importance of names. Throughout the Old and New Testaments, names are significant, and God makes it a point to alter or change people's names according to their role or purpose in His Plan for their life. Some examples are Abram to Abraham, which mean "noble father" and "father of many" respectively. Jacob to Israel, which mean "deceiver" and "strives with God", respectively. One last example would be Simon and Peter, or "one that hears" or "rock". Now take some time in prayer and

