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GROUP STUDY GUIDE

HaShem – Part 1 – What’s In a Name?

Use with the full teaching and a Bible. Read or watch first, complete the questions, then discuss and apply. For family study, an adult can select suitable portions and accept spoken answers.

Test the teaching’s explanations against the cited passages. Keep the answer key and facilitator notes separate when distributing learner pages.

[Open the full teaching](#)

Teaching summary

HaShem means the name. The teaching emphasizes biblical uses of shem that express character, authority, reputation, and purpose. Spelling and pronunciation have value, but they do not exhaust what it means to know YHWH’s name. We should seek understanding without allowing arguments over pronunciation to replace obedience or divide the body of Messiah.

Biblical names often describe a person’s character or purpose. Eve’s name is connected with being the mother of all living, while Babel is connected with confusion. Making a name can mean establishing a reputation. A name therefore communicates more than the sounds used to identify someone. Familiar expressions such as having a good name reflect this broader meaning.

Calling upon YHWH’s name involves recognizing his authority. His name in the messenger of Exodus 23 points to authority that must be obeyed. Likewise, serving, speaking, and blessing in his name carry responsibility to represent him faithfully. The place where he puts his name is connected with his chosen dwelling and authority.

Profaning his name includes conduct that treats his authority as worthless. Idolatry and false oaths are examples given in Leviticus. Those who profess allegiance to YHWH dishonor his reputation when their actions contradict their words. Respect for his name must therefore include truthful promises, holiness, and obedience to his Torah.

Exodus 6:3 is understood in terms of experiencing YHWH’s character and power, since Abraham already used his name. Passover, the Red Sea, and Sinai revealed his grace, power, and authority. Pharaoh could speak the name yet resisted that authority. Knowing the name calls for trusting and obeying YHWH, while discussions of pronunciation should remain civil and edifying.

Summary points

- HaShem means “the name.”
- Shem includes character, authority, reputation, and purpose.
- Pronunciation should not become a cause of division.
- Biblical names can describe a person’s role or character.
- Calling on YHWH’s name involves recognizing his authority.
- Bearing his name involves representing him through conduct.
- Idolatry profanes YHWH’s name.
- False oaths dishonor the authority and reputation of YHWH.
- The Exodus revealed aspects of YHWH’s character and power.

- Knowing his name includes trusting him and obeying his Torah.

Fill in the blank

Use the teaching and the cited Bible passages. Equivalent wording is welcome when it expresses the same meaning.

Basic

1. HaShem means “the _____.”
2. The Hebrew word discussed as name, character, and authority is _____.
3. Leviticus 19:12 forbids swearing by YHWH’s name _____.
4. The teaching understands YHWH’s name in the messenger of Exodus 23:21 as expressing his _____.
5. Those who know YHWH’s name put their _____ in him, according to Psalm 9:10.
6. The teaching encourages obedience to the _____ so his character will be known.

Challenging

1. Eve was named in connection with being the mother of all the _____.
2. The builders at Babel wanted to make a _____ for themselves.
3. Proverbs 6 condemns the person who sows _____ among brothers.
4. YHWH’s power was demonstrated at the Red _____.
5. His authority was revealed through giving the Torah at _____.
6. The Egyptian ruler who spoke YHWH’s name but resisted his authority was _____.

Group discussion

Discuss respectfully and support answers from the passages. Use these lines for brief notes or a notebook for longer responses.

1. How do the examples of Eve, Babel, and Abraham broaden the meaning of a name?

2. What responsibilities come with representing YHWH's character and authority?

3. How do idolatry and false oaths illustrate profaning his name?

4. How does the teaching understand Exodus 6:3 in light of Abraham's earlier use of YHWH?

5. What does Pharaoh's example show about speaking a name and acknowledging authority?

6. How can believers discuss pronunciation in ways that edify rather than sow discord?

Answer key

For the leader or parent. Answers follow the teaching and the passages. Accept equivalent wording that expresses the same meaning.

Basic

1. name

Teaching introduction

2. shem

Teaching sections on shem and its uses

3. falsely

Leviticus 19:12

4. authority

Exodus 23:21; teaching section Name as Authority

5. trust

Psalms 9:10

6. Torah

Teaching conclusion

Challenging

1. living

Genesis 3:20

2. name

Genesis 11:4

3. discord

Proverbs 6:16-19

4. Sea

Teaching section Knowing the Name; Exodus 14

5. Sinai

Teaching section Knowing the Name; Exodus 19-20

6. Pharaoh

Exodus 8:8; teaching section Knowing the Name

Facilitator notes

These responses give direction for discussion. They are not a test of identical wording. Invite participants to explain the passages and consider a faithful practical response.

1. Eve's naming is connected with life; Babel's name with the confusion of language; and Abraham is promised a great name. These examples show that a name can express reputation, meaning, and purpose as well as identify a person.

Genesis 3:20; 11:4, 9; 12:2

2. Our words and conduct should represent him faithfully. The teaching connects bearing his name with truthful promises, obedience, and recognition of his authority. We should test each application in its particular passage.

Numbers 6:27; Deuteronomy 10:20; Exodus 23:21

3. Leviticus directly connects offering children to Molech and swearing falsely by YHWH's name with profaning that name. These examples show why honoring him includes conduct and faithfulness, not only pronunciation.

Leviticus 18:21; 19:12

4. The teaching reads the contrast as knowing YHWH's character and power through the events of the Exodus. It compares the earlier Genesis use of the name with the later revelation to Israel. Identify this as the teaching's explanation of the passage.

Exodus 6:3; Genesis 13:4; teaching section Knowing the Name

5. Pharaoh uses the name in his request but resists YHWH's authority. The teaching uses the contrast to show that merely saying a name does not amount to trusting and obeying the one named.

Exodus 8:8; teaching section Knowing the Name

6. We can present evidence with humility, listen carefully, and refuse to turn an uncertain reconstruction into a salvation test. The teaching values investigation while warning against sowing discord.

Proverbs 6:16-19; teaching opening and conclusion

Put it into practice

Choose one response to the passages. What will we do, and when will we revisit it? Share only what you are comfortable sharing.