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GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Why It's Okay to Say "Jesus"

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

Using Yeshua honors the Messiah's Hebrew name and helps recover his historical setting. That preference does not establish that using the English name quoted as "Jesus" is sinful. The study addresses two common objections: a claimed connection with Zeus and a claim that biblical names must never be transliterated.

Transliteration represents a name in another language with approximate corresponding sounds. The Septuagint, a Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures made before the Messiah's ministry, provides examples. The use of such forms in the New Testament supports the conclusion that representing Hebrew names in Greek is not inherently wrong.

Similar sounds do not establish a common origin. The Greek forms Iesous and Zeus use different letters, even where their sounds appear similar to English listeners. The Septuagint also uses Iesous for Yehoshua. This earlier Jewish usage is offered as evidence against the claim that the name was constructed from Zeus.

Yeshua is the shortened form of Yehoshua, and the study connects the name with YHWH's salvation. It encourages using Yeshua while explaining the familiar English name to audiences who may not know the Hebrew form. A preference for the Hebrew name should not become an unsupported accusation of sin against others.

Summary points

- The ministry prefers the Hebrew name Yeshua.
- That preference does not make the English form sinful.
- Transliteration represents names across languages.
- The Septuagint provides pre-Christian examples of transliteration.
- Similar sounds do not prove shared word origins.
- Iesous and Zeus are spelled differently in Greek.
- Iesous is used for Yehoshua in the Septuagint.
- Yeshua is a shortened form of Yehoshua.
- The Hebrew name points to YHWH's salvation.
- An unfamiliar Hebrew name can be explained to an English-speaking audience.

Fill in the blank

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

Basic

1. The Hebrew name preferred for the Messiah is _____.
2. Adapting a name's sounds to another language is _____.
3. The ancient Greek translation discussed is the _____.
4. The disputed pagan connection concerns the deity _____.
5. The Greek form used for the Messiah is _____.
6. Yeshua is the shortened form of _____.

Challenging

1. The Hebrew word ki means “_____,” despite sounding like English key.
2. The Russian word tut means “_____,” despite sounding like English toot.
3. In the comparison of Greek spellings, the last _____ letters are the same.
4. The English name derived from Yehoshua is _____.
5. The Hebrew name points to YHWH as _____.
6. The study says a preference for Yeshua does not make the English name a _____.

Group discussion

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

1. How can a preference for Yeshua be maintained without condemning others?

2. Why does the Septuagint matter to the argument about transliteration?

3. What is wrong with deriving word origins from similar sounds alone?

4. How does comparing the Greek spellings address the Zeus claim?

5. What meaning does the Hebrew name communicate?

6. How can a group introduce the Hebrew name clearly to someone who knows only the English form?

Answer key

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

Basic

1. Yeshua

Teaching opening and conclusion

2. transliteration

Teaching discussion of transliteration

3. Septuagint

Teaching discussion of the Septuagint

4. Zeus

Teaching discussion of the claimed Zeus connection

5. Iesous

Teaching Greek spelling comparison

6. Yehoshua

Teaching discussion of Yeshua and Yehoshua

Challenging

1. because

Teaching examples of similar sounds across languages

2. here

Teaching examples of similar sounds across languages

3. two

Teaching Greek spelling comparison

4. Joshua

Teaching discussion of Yeshua and Yehoshua

5. salvation

Teaching conclusion on the meaning of Yeshua

6. sin

Teaching opening and conclusion

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. We can use Yeshua and explain our preference while acknowledging that the teaching does not call the English name sinful. A preference should not become a condition of acceptance or a claim about another person's faith.

Teaching opening and conclusion

2. The Septuagint predates the Messiah's earthly ministry and uses Greek forms of Hebrew names, including Iesous for Yehoshua. The teaching uses this as evidence that such name adaptation was already part of Jewish practice.

Teaching discussion of the Septuagint

3. A resemblance in sound is not enough to establish descent or borrowing between languages. We need historical forms and evidence of how a word developed. The teaching's ki/key and tut/toot examples illustrate the problem.

Teaching examples of similar sounds across languages

4. The Greek spellings show that the proposed syllable does not simply spell Zeus. Alongside the earlier Jewish use of Iesous, that undercuts the specific claim discussed. Different spelling alone is not a universal proof that any two words are unrelated.

Teaching Greek spelling comparison and Septuagint discussion

5. The teaching relates Yeshua and Yehoshua to YHWH's salvation. We can explain that meaning without claiming that a person must pronounce one particular form to be heard by God.

Teaching conclusion on the meaning and use of Yeshua

6. Begin with the familiar English name and explain that Yeshua is the Hebrew form used in the teaching. Use it consistently after the explanation, while making room for questions and avoiding accusations against people using English.

Teaching concluding explanation of its audience practice

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.