

Short Talk

(SHT060)

What's in a name?

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SHORT TALK: “WHAT’S IN A NAME?”

Aim of Short talk:	To teach that Jesus’ name reveals what He came to earth to do.								
Main themes:	Christmas, Saviour, Immanuel								
Biblical references:	Matthew 1:21-23, Genesis 41:51-52								
Props:	Large baby doll wrapped up in a blanket, four large cards with the following on them: <table> <tr> <td>GEORGE:</td> <td>Farmer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DAS:</td> <td>Slave</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ETHAN:</td> <td>Long lived</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DAVID:</td> <td>Beloved</td> </tr> </table>	GEORGE:	Farmer	DAS:	Slave	ETHAN:	Long lived	DAVID:	Beloved
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One of the most wonderful things that parents do when they have a new baby is to choose a name for them.

- Sometimes people will choose a name because a member of their family, like a grandmother or grandfather, has that name.
- Sometimes they will choose a name just because they like it, or because it is a bit unusual.

In Bible times people would choose names for their children based on the meaning of that name.

- So for instance when Joseph, the favourite son of Jacob, had his two sons in Egypt he named his first son Manasseh which means “to forget.”
- Joseph said that he had chosen the name Manasseh because God had made him forget all of his troubles and his parent’s home.

Joseph named his second son Ephraim which means “fruitful.”

- Joseph said that he had chosen the name Ephraim because God had made him fruitful in the land of his suffering.

Imagine today that we are back in Bible times and we need to name a baby boy. I just happen to have a baby boy here! *(Produce baby doll wrapped up in a blanket)*

- Can I have three helpers to come and help me choose a name? *(Gather three volunteers at the front of church with you)*
- We will choose the name based on its meaning and I have four names for you to choose from.

The first name is George which means “Farmer.” *(Show appropriate card)*

- You might want to choose that name for the baby if you think he would make a good farmer.

The second name is Das which means “slave.” *(Show appropriate card)*

- You might choose that name if you think that he is going to be a slave.

The third name is Ethan which means “long lived.” *(Show appropriate card)*

- You might choose that name because you are hoping that he is going to have a long life.

The fourth name is David which means “beloved,” or “dearly loved,” (*Show appropriate*)

- You might choose that name because you know that the baby is joining a family where he will be dearly loved.

So what are we going to name this baby?

- I am going to ask each of you to tell me your choice of name and why you have chosen it.....
- I will then decide who has given me the best reason for the name that they have chosen. (*Ask each of the three helpers their choice of name and why they have chosen it*)

The name we are going to give to this baby is.....(*Name chosen*)

- Thank you for your help.....would you like to sit down.

Mary and Joseph.....Jesus’ mother and earthly father didn’t choose the name for the baby that Mary was expecting.

- The Bible tells us that an angel told Joseph that He was to name the baby Jesus.

This is what the angel said to Joseph:

“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21)

Can anyone guess what the name Jesus means?

- It means “the Lord saves.”

So Jesus’ name tells us what He came to do when He came to earth.

- Jesus came to save people from their sins and make it possible for them to know God as their Heavenly Father.

Earlier we said that we might choose the name George for our baby boy,

- because we thought he would make a good farmer.

Jesus’ name wasn’t chosen by humans who thought that He might save people.....

- Jesus’ name was chosen by Father God, because His name tells us exactly what He came to do.

As well as the name Jesus, the angel gave Joseph another name to give to Mary’s baby.

- He said: “.....*they will call him Immanuel*” (Matthew 1:22)

Does anyone know what Immanuel means?

- It means “God with us,”
- So Jesus’ name tells us that Jesus came to not only save people from their sins,
- but that He was God in human flesh, come to be with us here on earth.

What an awesome name Jesus has.

What an awesome person Jesus is.

Let’s worship Him.