

# The Name of Jesus

## Small Group Guide

**Warm-up Question:** (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Do you like your own name? Explain.
2. If you could learn a new language, what language would you choose?

**Read the following passages:** Philippians 2:5-11; Romans 6:1-5; John 14:12-14.

Jesus's emptying of himself, willingness to become one of us, and obedience to a humiliating death on the cross was a perfect revelation of the self-giving nature of the Father. Therefore, the Father bestowed upon Jesus his own divine name, expressed in the declaration "Jesus Christ is Lord." Jesus now has the name that is above every name. This is another way of saying what Jesus himself declared in Matthew 28, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." Remarkably, Jesus shares his name with us. We are baptized in his name, we pray in his name, and we have authority over demons through his name.

**Questions for Discussion** (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Do you have trouble believing that God is really for you? Explain. What do Jesus's life and death teach us about God's concern for us?
2. Read Romans 13:13-14. Paul contrasts fleshly behaviors (e.g. immorality and drunkenness) with clothing oneself with Christ. In other words, instead of behaving immorally, we should embrace a Christ-centered identity. Explain the connection between identity and behavior. How do you see this connection playing out in your own life?
3. Jesus gives us great promises concerning prayer. What are some factors that might hinder the effectiveness of our prayers? What are some helpful attitudes or practices we can bring to prayer? What are some areas in your life in which you should be praying bolder prayers? What should we do if we're experiencing some degree of hopelessness or disillusionment regarding prayer?
4. What are some ways demonic spirits work in our world? How can we recognize demonic activity?
5. Have you been baptized since becoming a follower of Christ? If not, is that something you are ready to do now?

**Pray**