

# Name Above All Names

AN INVITATION TO REMEMBER  
WHO JESUS REALLY IS

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*To Frederick. Thank you for being a spiritual father to me and for your example of faithfulness and love. You are a blessing to so many.*

*To Stephanie, Jacob, Carolyn, Michael, Amanda, Ruthie, Mary Carlyn, Charles, and Elena. Thank you for making space for me, for calling out my gifts, and encouraging me in this calling to write. Your support, prayers, encouragement, and couches mean the world to me.*

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# Introduction

Sometimes I forget who Jesus is.

I forget in seasons when life is tossing me here and there and all I want to do is grab hold of something solid.

I forget him in seasons when I feel like I got this and I am confident and independent and totally capable of doing life on my own.

I forget him in seasons when nothing especially spectacular is happening and everything just feels very routine and blah.

It doesn't matter the season really. I can forget Jesus in an instant—forget my need for him, forget the truth of who he is, forget what he's done for me and the price he paid in loving me.

I was raised in church and have spent the majority of my life learning about Jesus in Sunday School and reading about him in the Bible. I even went to a Christian college and took classes where he was the main topic of discussion and study. But I think sometimes my overfamiliarity with the stories of Jesus makes me forget him. He becomes more of a flannel graph figure rather than the real-life Jesus I can relate with daily.

When life gets hard and our days feel mundane, when we feel overly-confident in our ability to conquer whatever the world throws at us, or when we grow stagnant in our faith, it's time to encounter Jesus anew. It's time to go back to Scripture, back to prayer, back to diving in deeper, and remember who Jesus is.

Because when we remember who Jesus is, that's when fear takes a hike and our pride crumbles into humility and the mundane is transformed into a great gift.

When we remember who Jesus is, we are put face to face with the truth that faith isn't about performance, but relationship with a living God who sent his Son so that we might live with him—not just in eternity, but here and now.

Over the next 31 days, we're going to take some time to remember Jesus by focusing on his names.

The names of Jesus tell us plainly who he is. They show us how we can relate to him, what he has accomplished, and in some cases, the names of Jesus also define us. So in remembering who Jesus is, we also are reminded of who we are in him.

My hope is that by the end of this study, as we remember who Jesus is, those rough and doubting and hurting places of our hearts get smoothed out as we rediscover this Jesus who is the solid foundation we can stand on, and the one person we can trust to be there no matter our season.

P.S. If you're studying with a group, or if you just want a little extra something for your study, I've got a free leader guide that you can download from my website. Just go to <https://jazminnfrank.com/group> to fill out the form and then the leader guide will be sent straight to your email! Happy studying!



# Bible Study Basics

One of my main goals in every study I create is not to just feed you information and pull lessons out of the passages for you. I want to train you and give you the skills you need to actually study the Bible for yourself.

You'll notice in this study that I will always begin each lesson with the reference to that day's passage and a bit of blank space. Before I ever speak a word about it, I want you encounter the text first for yourself.

I want you to make this study your own. I'm simply here to guide you, give you a few things to think about, and provide a few tools to help you dig deeper into God's Word.

You are perfectly capable of understanding and studying the Bible for yourself. Don't shake your head at me. It's true.

You may not always understand everything you read the first time—or the fifth time—but you can always glean something with the guidance and insight of the Holy Spirit and a few handy Bible study skills.

In these next sections, I'll share a few skills that you will find useful, not only as you move through this study, but in future studies as well.

## SKILL #1 BIBLE READING

Each day as you turn to the passage and begin reading, here are a few practices that will help you get the most out of your Bible time. Also, if you're wondering how to use that blank space at the beginning of each lesson, these practices are a great way to utilize that space:

1. **Start with prayer.** Ask Holy Spirit to help you understand what you read and

reveal important truths you need to hear.

**2. Make some observations.** Pay attention to what you're reading and take note of what's there.

**3. Ask some questions.** Is there something there that you don't understand? Ask God about it. Bible reading isn't a passive activity, but an opportunity to engage in conversation with God.

**4. Read with a pen in your hand.** It might seem scary to write in your Bible or like it isn't allowed, but it is. In fact, marking important words, underlining verses that stick out, or making notes in the margin is a great way to engage with the text.

## SKILL #2 CONTEXT

Context is the literary, cultural, and historical setting of the text. Literary context takes into account what other words, verses, and events occur around the passage you are looking at. Cultural and historical context help us understand who the author is, who the text was written for or to, the time period of the text, and what historical events occur around a particular passage.

This kind of information can be found in commentaries or in the notes sections of a study Bible. But since our focus in this study isn't on learning how to navigate these tools, I won't ask you to go hunt it down yourself, but I do want you to be aware of the context of John before we dive in.

The gospel of John was written by John the apostle. He was one of the twelve disciples of Jesus, and one of the three that were closest to Jesus.

This book was written to a mixed audience of Jews and Gentiles sometime toward the end of the first century.

Each gospel writer has a different purpose or angle from which they write their account of Jesus' life and ministry. John is focused on providing the information his readers need so that they will believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that in believing, they find life in his name.

In John 20:31 our author states this purpose clearly when he writes, "these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

*Believe* and *life* are two words you will find frequently throughout this book. And really these words are the reason we're looking at the names of Jesus in the first place.

Because if you know who Jesus is and what is revealed about him through his names,

you can believe that he is exactly who he says he is. And in believing, you find life in him—not just eternal life, but abundant life on this side of heaven too. And that’s the goal here—for John in his writing and for us in our studying.

We want to believe and we want to live.

Maybe you picked up this study because something in your heart tugged when you read the description on the back cover. Maybe this is simply the next study in the stack of studies you’ve been collecting. Maybe you’re part of my Devoted Community, or part of another Bible study group and this is the study for this season.

Whatever brought you here, I pray these words, this gospel, these names feed that hunger in you. I pray that they bolster your faith, that they iron out some of the doubts you have about Jesus, and that you are able to trust him more deeply as you remember who he is.

I pray, with John, that you would believe, and in believing you may have life in Jesus’ name.

### SKILL #3 KEYWORDS

Like I said, I don’t want to just hand you information. I want to help you learn how to study the Bible yourself. In this study we’ll focus on the skill of marking keywords.

Keywords can be one of two things. They are either words that are used repeatedly in a passage or words that you are specifically looking for. We’re going to track both kinds of keywords in this study.

Since belief and life are the main focus of John, I want you to be on lookout for those words and pay attention to how they are used. As you read, keep a pen or highlighter handy and underline every time the words *believe* and *live* (or a variation of those words) are used.

We’re also focused on the names of Jesus—names others call him, and those he gives to himself. Whenever you come across a name of Jesus, put a box around it.

Easy peezy lemon squeezey, right?

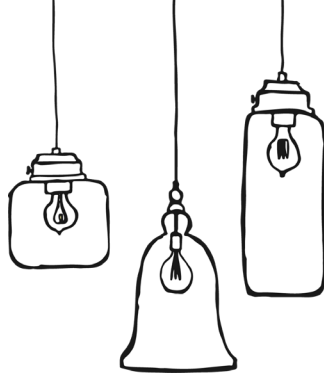
Underline the words *believe* and *live*. Put a box around the names of Jesus.

Got your pen handy? Then let’s get started!

But before we do, let’s pray.

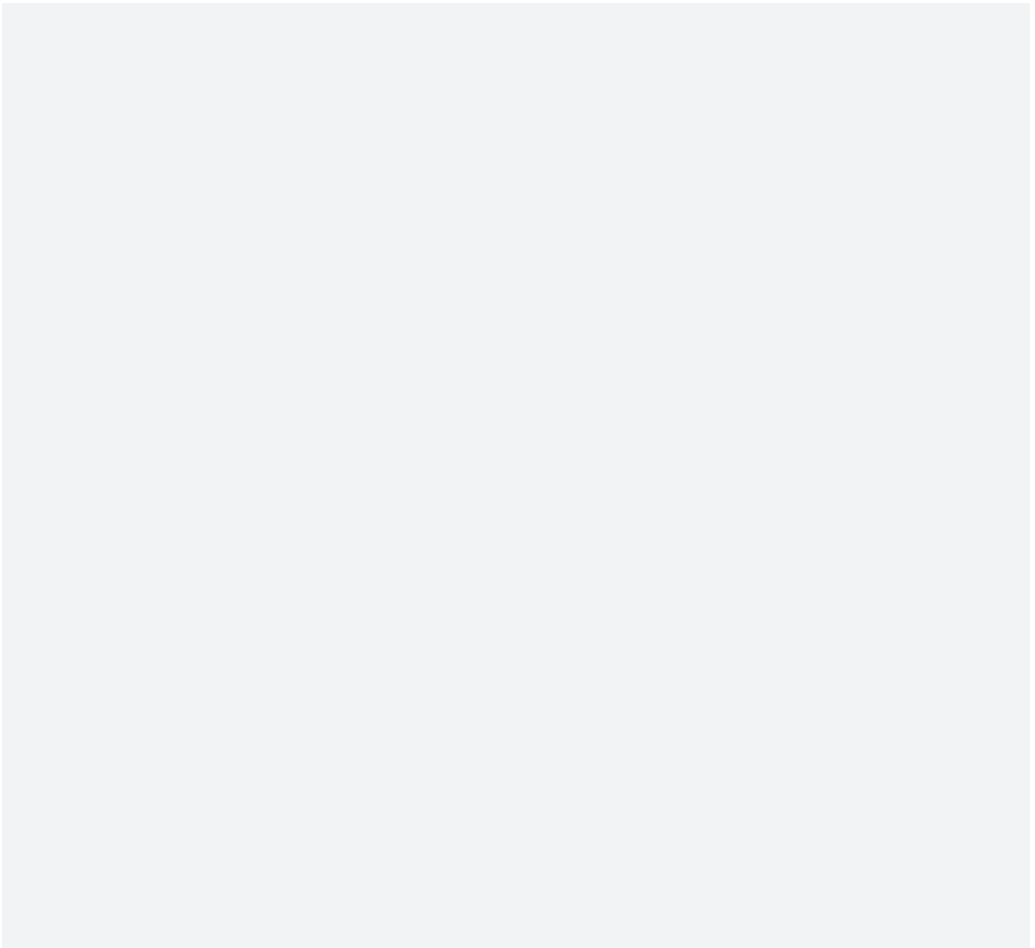
*Father, you have given us a great gift in your Word. You reveal your heart and make yourself known, and we are grateful that you are a God who wants us to know you. You pursue us and go after us and seek out relationship with us. As we begin this study of the names of Jesus, we ask that you would prepare our hearts to encounter you in a new way. Holy Spirit, give us understanding and wisdom and insight as we read. Help us notice things we've never noticed before. And may we come out on the other end knowing you better and loving you more.*

*May you receive all the glory.*



# Day 1: Jesus Christ

READ JOHN 1:1-18



Whew! Is your head spinning a little bit? I know mine is.

Whenever I read this first part of the gospel of John, I reel—partly from the beauty of John’s writing and partly from the density of this passage. There is just so much info about our beloved Jesus in such a short amount of space.

If you didn’t read through the first time with your pen in your hand, go back through and put a box around all the names our author John uses for Jesus.

What names does John call Jesus in these first 18 verses of his gospel?

These opening verses in the gospel of John are rich. So many names.

Word.

Light.

Son.

We’ll spend the next few days here, digging into these verses, unearthing the gems. But today we begin our study by looking at the name that is most familiar to us.

Jesus Christ.

This Jesus who was both fully God and fully man came down from heaven and walked the earth in flesh. Though nowadays the name of Jesus is special and sacred, his name back then was actually quite ordinary.

In Hebrew, his name was Yeshua, or Joshua. It was a pretty popular name that meant “savior” or “deliverer.” It was the same name of the man who led Israel into the Promised Land after Moses died. You know, the guy named Joshua who was commanded to march around Jericho? And here in the New Testament, that same name is given to God’s Son.

Before he was even born, God was clear about what his Son's name would be.

Read Luke 1:26-33 and Matthew 1:18-22. What do these two passages tell us about Jesus and his name?

From the moment the angel declares to Mary that she will give birth to a son, we know exactly who Jesus will be.

Paul declares the importance of Jesus' name in Philippians 2:10-11 when he writes that "at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

God has a special knack for taking what is ordinary and making it holy. The name of Jesus is no different. The name of Jesus is simple. It was popular among the Jews because those sons they named Yeshua carried with them the reminder that one day, in the same way God delivered Israel from Egypt, he would deliver the Jews from their enemies.

The name of Jesus is something special and holy.

It truly is the name above every other name.

We're going to look at a lot of names over the next few weeks, but we're starting here with the name Jesus on purpose. As we move through the rest of this study, I encourage you to hold his name in your heart. Repeat it to yourself over and over.

Jesus...Jesus...Jesus...

Truly there is no sweeter name.

What does the name Jesus mean to you right now?

How do you think knowing the other names of Jesus will help you understand him and be in relationship with him?