

Sermon: It's All in the Name.

Series: Missionary Speaker

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25.

Date: November 16, 2025

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about God?

a) Joseph is told to name Mary's son, Jesus. This name is the word *Yeshua* in Hebrew, which means savior. This was not a new concept for the Jews as God has revealed himself to be the Savior throughout the Old Testament. For each of these scriptures discuss what it tells us about the salvation of God: Genesis 49:18, Exodus 15:1, Psalm 51:14, Isaiah 12:3.

2. What does this passage teach us about us?

a) Consider both the names "Jesus" and "Immanuel." What do these two names tell us about ourselves and the human condition?

b) Joseph faced a terrible challenge full of confusion. Is there any part of your life that is challenging or confusing right now?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) Think about the name "Jesus Christ." Jesus = Savior. Christ = Messiah or Anointed One. What do these two names together tell us about the person of Jesus of Nazareth?

b) Read Acts 4:12. Do you struggle in any way to believe this verse? Why is the name of Jesus alone the name that saves us? (Remember: there is nothing magical about the literal name "Jesus." Name refers to his character and nature, his life and work.)

c) Read Matt. 1:23. Matthew quotes Isaiah: "they shall call his name Immanuel, which means God with us." In what way is Jesus the fulfillment of the following scriptures: Genesis 3:15; Exodus 29:45; Leviticus 26:12; Isaiah 7:14; Ezekiel 37:27.

APPLICATION

a) In what way does the obedience of Joseph inspire you? Is there an area of your life where you need to trust God and simply obey him, even though you are "confused?"

b) People are saved through faith in the name (person, work, character) of Jesus. Tuvya challenged us to pray for those who need to trust in Jesus and to be prepared to speak the name of Jesus to others. In what ways can you take this challenge to heart?

PRAYER

- Acknowledge God as our Savior.
- Confess ways that you have allowed your confusion to keep you from trusting and obeying God.
- Thank Jesus for being our "God with us."
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to never be ashamed to declare the name of Jesus.