

What's
in a
NAME?

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

ELOHIM
JANUARY 16 & 17, 2016

OPENING QUESTION

Share a nickname that someone gave you (at any point in your life!), and explain why they gave it to you? If you have the courage, feel free to say if you thought it was accurate or not!

READ TOGETHER

Mark 4:35-41, Genesis 1:1-2, Colossians 1:15-20

BIG IDEA

Elohim is the Hebrew name for God that describes Him as the all-powerful God, functioning as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Our perspective of who He is must be aligned with who He says He is.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have a couple members of the group describe a situation where they felt helpless. What were the primary emotions and reactions that were present?
2. Read Mark 4:35-41. The disciples had seen Jesus do many amazing things to this point; knowing this, does it seem odd that they reacted so strongly? Why do you think they were so afraid?
3. Does it surprise you that Jesus was sleeping through a storm as serious as this one? Did He respond (to the storm, verse 39) in a way you would expect Him to respond?
4. Read verse 39 again as a group. Make a list of some of the implications of Jesus speaking to the storm like He did.
5. What are a few of the reasons Jesus asked them why they were afraid? Does Jesus' response to the disciples seem surprising?
6. Where was it that Jesus was trying to focus their attention with His question(s) in verse 40? What do Jesus' questions to them tell us about Him?
7. What do you think most people think of when they hear the name "Jesus?" Why is it hard for many to connect Jesus with God the Father in the sense that He is Elohim – all-powerful God?
8. If you could describe the relationship between God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit without using familiar "Churchy" terminology, how would you do it?
9. Describe some ways that you (in the past or present) have tried to re-define who God is by filtering it through your own perspective.
10. One commentator (D.A. Carson) says that Jesus as Creator (Elohim) was the only one capable of commanding the wind and waves to be still. Practically speaking, what should that say about our perspective?
11. What kinds of things hold us back from running to Jesus when storms come into our lives?
12. Using one or two word answers, what does the last question the disciples asked in verse 41 tell us about us?
13. Describe what a relationship with Jesus looks like when we authentically and honestly determine to filter everything we do through that relationship. What does that say about Jesus, and what does it say about us? Be specific.

CHALLENGE

This week I commit to look at Jesus for who Jesus is: the all-powerful God.

PRAYER

Ask God for insight into ways we tend **not** to look at Jesus as our Elohim. Ask Him to help you with the courage necessary to realign your perspective with His.

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NEXT STEPS

Read through all of Colossians chapter 3 and take note of two things:

- 1) Who Jesus is as described;
- 2) What does that mean for me?