

What's
in a
NAME?

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

EL SHADDAI
JANUARY 30 & 31, 2016

OPENING QUESTIONS: *(choose one of the following to share...)*

1. Have you ever been given a nickname? Why was that name given to you?
2. What is your full name including any middle names? Do you have any idea why you were given your names?
3. If you could change your name and pick a brand new one, what would it be? Why would you choose it?

READ TOGETHER

Read Genesis 17:1-8 as a group. People are named or nicknamed for a specific reason. There is something about them that prompts people to name them a certain way. It is the same thing with God. He gives Himself names to emphasize who He is and what He does. For a follower of Christ, an understanding of His names is very helpful in our walk with God.

BIG IDEA

Our all-sufficient God makes us into people we'd never become on our own.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. To get your study going – is there anything in these verses that grabs your attention? Why?
2. Look back one chapter. What did Abraham do in Genesis 16? What is so striking about what God says in verses 1-8 in light of what took place in Genesis 16?
3. This is the first time God told Abraham His name. He says that He is “El Shaddai.” This name comes from the Hebrew word for “breast” (shad) and speaks of God’s all-sufficiency – He is the All-Bountiful, All-Sufficient God who will fulfill every promise and always keep His word. In light of what else God tells Abraham in these verses, why did God want Abraham to know Him by this name? What is the connection to Abraham’s failure in Genesis 16?
4. What does God offer to Abraham as a part of His covenant with him?
5. What does God ask of Abraham as his part of this covenant with God?
6. What does this teach us about God and how he relates to us?
7. What is God’s reason for changing Abraham’s name? Is there a lesson in there for us as believers? Cross reference to Revelation 2 verse 17 and the story of Peter.
8. Of all that God offers to Abraham, which becomes a prototype for what God offers to us as believers, what is most attractive to you?

CHALLENGE

This week, try to live with the awareness that God is your El Shaddai – your All-Sufficient, All-Bountiful God. Begin each morning by talking to Him and inviting Him to provide for you throughout your day. As you end your day, take some time to think back as to how you experienced the sufficiency of God throughout your day.

PRAYER

Go around your group and ask each group member to share one setting in their life (home, work, etc.) where they find it difficult to believe or experience God as all-sufficient – where He just doesn’t seem to be enough. If you can, share why that might be true. And then pray for each other in this regard..

NEXT STEP

Next week at RockPointe we will be kicking off a new teaching series in the letter of James. Take some time to read it through this week before we dive into it in our weekend gatherings.