

The Name Above All Names

Explore the Heart of Christ

***Lenten Practice:** Each day this week, when you pray, begin by addressing Jesus with one of His names that speaks to your current need. Let the relevance of who Jesus is minister to you through how you pray.*

Daily Devotional for February 24: God with Us

***Reading:** Matthew 1:18-25*

Emmanuel—God with us. This name reveals the heart of God's mission: not to remain distant, but to dwell among us. Joseph received this profound calling to name the child who would embody divine presence in human flesh. As you journey through Lent, consider where you need God's presence most urgently. Is it in your workplace, your family struggles, or your moments of loneliness? The promise of Emmanuel is that God doesn't observe your life from afar but enters fully into your reality. Today, invite Jesus into the specific spaces where you feel most alone. Write down one area where you need to experience "God with us" and pray specifically for His presence there.

Daily Devotional for February 25: God Saves

***Reading:** Luke 19:1-10*

Yeshua—Jesus—means "God saves." This isn't merely a theological concept but a lived reality demonstrated in Jesus' encounter with Zacchaeus. Jesus came to seek and save the lost, not through condemnation but through relationship. As we prepare our hearts for Easter, we remember that salvation is God's work, not ours. Where in your life are you trying to save yourself through performance, perfectionism, or people-pleasing? The name Jesus reminds us that only God can truly rescue us from our human condition. Today, identify one burden you've been carrying alone and surrender it to the One whose very name means salvation. Release your grip and let God save you.

Daily Devotional for February 26: The Bread of Life

***Reading:** John 6:25-35*

"I am the bread of life," Jesus declared. In a world offering countless options to satisfy our hunger, Jesus claims to be the only sustenance that truly fills. What are you hungering for right now? Success, approval, security, purpose? The sermon challenged us to name Jesus according to our needs. When you're spiritually malnourished, call upon Jesus as the Bread of Life. This Lenten season, examine what you're feeding on daily. Are you consuming anxiety through endless news? Comparison through social media? Or are you feasting on God's Word? Make a practical commitment: before checking your phone each morning, spend five minutes reading Scripture. Let Jesus, the Bread of Life, be your first nourishment.

Daily Devotional for February 27: The Resurrection and the Life

***Reading:** John 11:17-27*

Martha encountered Jesus in her darkest hour, grieving her brother's death. Jesus offered her more than sympathy—He offered Himself: "I am the resurrection and the life." Death takes many forms: the death of dreams, relationships, health, or hope. Where are you walking through the valley of the shadow of death? Jesus doesn't promise to remove all death from our experience, but He promises to be the resurrection within it. His power brings life from death, hope from despair, purpose from pain. Today, name the "death" you're facing and declare over it, "Jesus is the resurrection and the life." Trust that the same power that raised Lazarus and conquered the grave is available to resurrect what seems dead in your life.

Daily Devotional for February 28: Jesus is Lord

Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

The early Christians faced tremendous pressure to declare "Caesar is Lord" to save themselves and their families. Yet they chose to confess "Jesus is Lord," even unto death. What modern-day "Caesars" demand your allegiance? Career success, financial security, cultural acceptance, comfort? The question Paul poses remains: What are you willing to compromise to avoid discomfort? This Lenten journey calls us to examine where we've bowed to lesser lords. At the name of Jesus, every knee will bow—including yours, including mine. The question is whether we'll do it now in worship or later in judgment. Today, conduct an honest inventory: Where have you compromised your faith for convenience? Confess it, and recommit to living as though Jesus truly is Lord of every area of your life.