



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

KNOWING JESUS

The Names and Titles of Jesus

A Beginner Guide to Recognizing Who Jesus Is

The short answer

The Bible gives Jesus many names and titles because no single word can express the fullness of who He is. Together they reveal His identity, His saving work, His authority, His care, and His promised return.

“You shall call his name Jesus, for it is he who shall save his people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:21 WEB

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PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE

Many names, one Savior

This Companion was not written to replace your Bible. It was written to help you fall in love with it. Every page is intended to send you back into God's Word with greater confidence, deeper understanding, and a clearer picture of Jesus Christ.

Some words identify Jesus by name. Others describe His role, character, authority, relationship with the Father, or work for His people. A title is not merely a label. In its biblical setting, it tells us something true about the Person who bears it.

Three truths to remember

01

Read the title in its passage

The surrounding verses show why a name or title is being used at that moment.

02

Let the whole Bible add depth

Many titles grow from Old Testament promises, pictures, offices, and hopes.

03

Respond to the Person

The goal is not to memorize a list. It is to know, trust, worship, and follow Jesus.

Beginner memory anchor

Every name tells us something true. Every title helps us see Jesus more clearly.



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PRACTICAL TOOL

Use this five-question beginner method

01	What name or title is used? Write the exact word or phrase the passage gives Jesus.
02	Who uses it? Notice whether the title is spoken by an angel, disciple, crowd, enemy, narrator, or Jesus Himself.
03	What is happening? Read the conversation, miracle, conflict, prophecy, worship scene, or promise around it.
04	What does it reveal? Ask what it shows about Jesus' identity, character, authority, mission, or relationship with us.
05	How should I respond? Does the passage call for faith, repentance, worship, obedience, hope, or comfort?

A one-sentence worksheet

Jesus is called _____ in this passage. This reveals that He _____, so I can _____.

Keep growing slowly

You do not need to master every title at once. Begin with the clearest meaning in the passage, then let Scripture deepen your understanding over time.



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NAMES GIVEN AT HIS BIRTH

Jesus and Immanuel

Jesus — “the Lord saves”

The angel tells Joseph to name Mary’s Son Jesus because He will save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). The name Jesus is the English form of a name related to the Hebrew name Joshua. Matthew gives the meaning that matters most: God’s promised salvation arrives through Him.

01

His mission is saving

Jesus came to seek and save the lost and to give His life as a ransom for many (Luke 19:10; Mark 10:45).

02

The deepest problem is sin

Jesus does more than improve circumstances; He reconciles sinners to God through His death and resurrection.

Immanuel — “God with us”

Matthew connects Jesus’ birth with Isaiah’s Immanuel promise: “They shall call his name Immanuel,” meaning “God with us” (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:22–23). Jesus makes God known and remains with His people (John 1:14, 18; Matthew 28:20).

Main truth

Jesus is the Savior who brings God near. In Him, “God saves” and “God with us” belong together.

Heart question

Do I look to Jesus only for help with life—or trust Him to save me from sin and bring me to God?



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CENTRAL TITLE

Jesus Christ — the promised Messiah

Christ is not Jesus' last name. "Christ" comes from the Greek word *Christos*, meaning "Anointed One." "Messiah" comes from the Hebrew word *Mashiach* and carries the same basic meaning.

In the Old Testament, kings, priests, and sometimes prophets were set apart for God's work. Israel also waited for God's promised ruler and deliverer. The New Testament announces that Jesus is that promised Christ (Matthew 16:16; John 20:30–31).

01

Promised King

Jesus is the Son of David whose kingdom will never end (Luke 1:32–33).

02

Faithful Priest

Jesus brings His people to God and intercedes for them (Hebrews 4:14–16; 7:25).

03

Final Word

Jesus reveals the Father and speaks God's truth perfectly (Hebrews 1:1–3; John 14:9–10).

Important balance

Jesus did not fit every popular expectation of the Messiah. He first came as the suffering, saving King; He will return openly in glory (Mark 8:29–31; Acts 1:11).

Beginner memory anchor

Jesus is the Christ: God's promised and anointed King who saves.



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A PROMISED OFFICE

The Prophet like Moses

Moses told Israel that the Lord would raise up a prophet like him and commanded the people to listen (Deuteronomy 18:15–19). The New Testament directly applies this promise to Jesus (Acts 3:20–23; 7:37).

A biblical prophet speaks God's word faithfully. Jesus does that perfectly—and more. He does not merely bring a message from God; He is the eternal Word who makes the Father known (John 1:1, 14, 18; Hebrews 1:1–3).

01

The crowds recognize a prophet

After Jesus feeds the multitude, people say, “This is truly the prophet who comes into the world” (John 6:14; see also 7:40).

02

The Father commands us to listen

At the transfiguration, the Father says of Jesus, “This is my beloved Son... Listen to him” (Matthew 17:5).

03

Jesus speaks with unique authority

He teaches not merely as a scribe repeating others, but with authority that astonishes His hearers (Matthew 7:28–29).

04

He reveals the Father perfectly

Jesus speaks what the Father gives Him and shows us the Father's character without error (John 12:49–50; 14:9–10).

More than one prophet among many

Jesus fulfills the promised prophetic role, but the New Testament does not reduce Him to that role. He is also the Christ, the Son of God, the Great High Priest, and the risen Lord.

Beginner memory anchor

Jesus is the promised Prophet we must hear—and the eternal Son who perfectly reveals the Father.



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IDENTITY AND RELATIONSHIP

The Son of God

“Son of God” does not mean that God physically produced Jesus or that Jesus began to exist at His birth. Scripture presents the Son as eternally sharing the Father’s glory, becoming truly human, and revealing the Father (John 1:1–3, 14, 18; 17:5).

01

The Father declares it

At Jesus’ baptism and transfiguration, the Father calls Him His beloved Son (Matthew 3:17; 17:5).

02

His works reveal it

John records Jesus’ signs so readers may believe He is the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:30–31).

03

His resurrection confirms it

Jesus was powerfully declared to be the Son of God by resurrection from the dead (Romans 1:3–4).

04

Faith in the Son gives life

Whoever has the Son has life; whoever rejects the Son remains without that life (John 3:16–18; 1 John 5:11–12).

Main truth

The title reveals Jesus’ unique relationship with the Father and His divine identity. The Son makes the unseen God known.

Heart question

Am I listening to Jesus as a helpful teacher—or trusting Him as the beloved Son sent by the Father?



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JESUS' FAVORITE SELF-TITLE

The Son of Man

Jesus often calls Himself “the Son of Man.” The title can sound like a simple way of saying “human,” and Jesus truly is human. But His use also reaches toward Daniel’s vision of a humanlike figure who receives everlasting authority and a kingdom from God (Daniel 7:13–14).

01

He shares our humanity

The Son of Man lived among us, experienced weakness, and identifies with those He came to save (Matthew 8:20; Hebrews 4:15).

02

He came to serve and die

The Son of Man gives His life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45).

03

He has authority

The Son of Man has authority to forgive sins and is Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:10, 28).

04

He will come in glory

Jesus applies Daniel’s royal vision to His future return and judgment (Mark 13:26; 14:62).

Main truth

“Son of Man” holds humility, suffering, authority, and glory together. The One who serves and suffers is also the everlasting King.



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DIVINE AUTHORITY

Lord — and the One worshiped as God

“Lord” can be a respectful form of address, but the New Testament also uses it for Jesus in the strongest possible sense: the risen King who shares divine honor and authority.

01

The risen Jesus is Lord

Peter announces that God has made the crucified and risen Jesus “both Lord and Christ” (Acts 2:32–36).

02

Confessing Jesus as Lord matters

Salvation is linked with believing God raised Jesus and confessing Him as Lord (Romans 10:9–13).

03

Every knee will bow

Jesus receives the universal honor described in Isaiah's declaration about the Lord (Isaiah 45:22–23; Philippians 2:9–11).

04

Jesus is directly called God

John calls the Word God; Thomas addresses the risen Jesus as “My Lord and my God”; Hebrews addresses the Son as God (John 1:1; 20:28; Hebrews 1:8).

Main truth

The New Testament does not present Jesus as merely a respected religious leader. He is the risen Lord who rightly receives faith, obedience, and worship.

Heart question

What part of my life needs to come more fully under the loving rule of Jesus as Lord?



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SAVING TITLES

Savior and Lamb of God

Savior

The angel announces “a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11). Jesus rescues people from sin, condemnation, and death—not because they can rescue themselves, but because of God’s mercy (Titus 3:4–7).

Lamb of God

John the Baptist points to Jesus and says, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29). The title gathers biblical pictures of sacrifice, Passover, and the suffering servant (Exodus 12; Isaiah 53:7; 1 Corinthians 5:7).

01

He is without sin

Jesus is the spotless, unblemished sacrifice (1 Peter 1:18–19).

02

He gives Himself

His death is willing and purposeful, not an accident outside God’s plan (John 10:17–18).

03

The slain Lamb reigns

Revelation presents the Lamb as slain, risen, worshiped, and victorious (Revelation 5:6–14; 17:14).

Main truth

Our Savior is the Lamb who bears sin and the King who triumphs. His sacrifice and victory cannot be separated.



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MAKING GOD KNOWN

The Word and the Image of God

The Word

John opens by calling Jesus “the Word.” The Word was with God, was God, created all things, and became flesh to live among us (John 1:1–3, 14). Jesus is God’s personal and perfect self-revelation.

The Image of the invisible God

Paul calls Jesus “the image of the invisible God” (Colossians 1:15). This does not mean Jesus is a created copy. The surrounding passage says all things were created through Him and for Him, and that He is before all things (Colossians 1:16–17).

01

He reveals God

To see Jesus truly is to see the Father’s character made known (John 14:9; Hebrews 1:3).

02

He creates and sustains

The Son is active in creation and holds all things together (John 1:3; Colossians 1:16–17).

03

He became truly human

The eternal Word did not stop being divine; He took on human nature and lived among us (John 1:14).

Main truth

If you want to know what God is like, look carefully at Jesus as Scripture reveals Him.



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ROYAL TITLES

King, Son of David, and Lion of Judah

King and Son of David

God promised David an enduring royal house (2 Samuel 7:12–16). The Gospels introduce Jesus as the Son of David and rightful King (Matthew 1:1; Luke 1:32–33). Crowds use “Son of David” as a cry of messianic hope and mercy (Matthew 9:27; 21:9).

Lion of the tribe of Judah

Revelation calls Jesus “the Lion who is of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David” (Revelation 5:5), echoing Judah’s royal promise (Genesis 49:9–10). Yet John turns and sees a Lamb standing as though slain (Revelation 5:6).

01

His kingdom is everlasting

Jesus reigns beyond every temporary human government.

02

His power is holy

He conquers through faithful witness, sacrificial love, resurrection, and righteous judgment.

03

His kingship demands allegiance

Grace welcomes us into His kingdom; grace also teaches us to live under His rule.

Main truth

Jesus is the promised King. The Lion conquers as the Lamb, and His kingdom will never end.



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RELATIONAL TITLES

Shepherd and Bridegroom

The Good Shepherd

Jesus knows His sheep, calls them, protects them, and lays down His life for them (John 10:11–18, 27–29). The title echoes the Lord as Shepherd and God’s promise to shepherd His people faithfully (Psalm 23; Ezekiel 34:11–16, 23).

The Bridegroom

Jesus identifies Himself as the bridegroom whose presence brings joy (Mark 2:19–20). The New Testament later pictures the church as a bride being prepared for Christ (Ephesians 5:25–27; Revelation 19:7–9).

01

He knows and leads

The Shepherd’s care is personal, purposeful, and trustworthy.

02

He gives Himself in love

Christ loves His people sacrificially and makes them holy.

03

He will gather His people

The wedding imagery points toward covenant joy and life with Christ forever.

Read with care

Biblical marriage imagery reveals covenant love and belonging. It should never be used to excuse manipulation, coercion, betrayal, or abuse in human relationships.



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BRINGING US TO GOD

Great High Priest, Mediator, and Advocate

Great High Priest

Hebrews presents Jesus as the compassionate High Priest who passed through the heavens, understands human weakness, offered Himself once for all, and lives to intercede (Hebrews 4:14–16; 7:24–27; 10:11–14).

Mediator

A mediator stands between parties to establish peace. Jesus is the one Mediator between God and humanity because He gave Himself as a ransom (1 Timothy 2:5–6; Hebrews 9:15).

Advocate

John says believers who sin have an Advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ the righteous (1 John 2:1–2). This does not make sin unimportant; it directs repentant believers toward Christ's sufficient work.

Main truth

Jesus does not merely show us the road toward God. By His once-for-all sacrifice and continuing intercession, He brings His people near.

Heart question

When I fail, do I hide from God—or come honestly through the Priest and Advocate He has provided?



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REVIEW AND REFLECTION

Bring the titles together

01	Jesus / Savior He saves His people from their sins.
02	Christ / King He is God's promised Anointed One and everlasting ruler.
03	Prophet He speaks God's Word perfectly and is the promised One we must hear.
04	Son of God / Word / Image He shares divine identity and makes the Father known.
05	Son of Man He is truly human, suffers for us, possesses authority, and will come in glory.
06	Lamb / Priest / Mediator He gives Himself for sin and brings His people to God.
07	Shepherd / Bridegroom He knows, loves, protects, gathers, and remains faithful to His people.

One faithful summary

Jesus is the eternal Son who became truly human, fulfilled God's promises, died as the Lamb for sinners, rose as Lord, shepherds His people, intercedes as High Priest, reigns as King, and will return in glory.



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PRACTICE PAGE

Study one title in context

Choose one passage

- Matthew 1:18–25 — Jesus and Immanuel
- Matthew 16:13–17 — Christ, Son of Man, and Son of God
- Deuteronomy 18:15–19 and Acts 3:20–23 — the promised Prophet
- Mark 10:35–45 — Son of Man and servant
- John 1:1–18, 29–34 — Word, Lamb, and Son of God
- John 10:1–30 — Door, Shepherd, Christ, and Son
- Colossians 1:13–20 — Son, Image, Creator, Head, and Firstborn
- Hebrews 4:14–16; 7:23–28 — Son and Great High Priest
- Revelation 5 — Lion, Root of David, and Lamb

Write what you observe

01	Title What exact name or title is used?
02	Context Who says it, and what is happening?
03	Meaning What does the passage itself reveal about Jesus?
04	Connection Does another passage deepen or clarify this title?
05	Response How does this truth invite faith, worship, obedience, hope, or comfort?

Your sentence

Jesus is called _____. This reveals _____. Because this is true, I will _____.



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WANT TO GO DEEPER? • ADVANCED

How biblical titles gather meaning

The following pages go beyond a beginner overview. They introduce original-language terms, Septuagint background, and historically important Christological questions. This material is advanced even though it is explained in clear language. You may stop here and still have a complete beginner framework.

01

A title can carry several layers

Its immediate setting, earlier biblical use, later fulfillment, and relationship to other titles may all contribute.

02

Different titles can overlap

King, Messiah, Son of David, and Son of God can converge without becoming exact synonyms.

03

A common word can become a great confession

Words such as “lord,” “teacher,” or “son” gain precision from their context and from the identity of Jesus.

04

Descriptions are not always formal titles

“True vine” is a metaphorical self-description; “Christ” is a recognized title. Both reveal truth, but in different ways.

Advanced memory anchor

Trace the title backward, read it in context, follow it forward, and let the whole canon clarify its meaning.



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WANT TO GO DEEPER? · ADVANCED

Key words behind familiar titles

Jesus — Iēsous

The Greek name Iēsous corresponds to the Hebrew/Aramaic name often represented as Yeshua or Joshua. Matthew 1:21 connects the name directly with saving from sins.

Christ — Christos / Messiah — Mashiach

Both terms mean “Anointed One.” The Greek New Testament commonly uses Christos, while John explains the relationship directly: “Messiah” is translated “Christ” (John 1:41; 4:25).

Lord — Kyrios

Kyrios can mean “sir,” “master,” or “Lord,” depending on context. The Greek Old Testament also uses it for the divine name. New Testament writers sometimes apply Old Testament Lord passages to Jesus (Isaiah 45:23; Joel 2:32; Philippians 2:10–11; Romans 10:9–13).

Savior — Sōtēr

The New Testament calls both God and Jesus Savior, placing Jesus within God's saving work (Titus 2:10, 13; 3:4, 6).

Use original-language tools humbly

A dictionary can help, but a word's meaning comes from how it functions in its sentence, paragraph, book, and wider biblical setting. Do not pour every possible dictionary meaning into every occurrence.



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WANT TO GO DEEPER? • ADVANCED

“Firstborn” and “only Son”

Firstborn of all creation

Colossians 1:15 calls Jesus “the firstborn of all creation.” In Scripture, “firstborn” can describe rank, inheritance, and supremacy—not only birth order (Psalm 89:27). Paul’s next words rule out the idea that Jesus is merely the first created being: all things were created through Him and for Him, He is before all things, and all things hold together in Him (Colossians 1:16–17).

Only begotten / one and only Son

Translations render the Greek word *monogenēs* in different ways, including “only begotten,” “one and only,” or “only.” In John, the emphasis is the Son’s unique relationship with the Father—not that the Son was created or came into existence later (John 1:14, 18; 3:16–18).

Interpret the phrase with the paragraph

Difficult titles should not be isolated from the author’s explanation. Colossians explains “firstborn” with creation and supremacy; John explains the unique Son as the eternal Word who was with God and was God.



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WANT TO GO DEEPER? · ADVANCED

Revelation gathers the titles together

Revelation does not introduce a different Jesus. It gathers titles and images from across Scripture to reveal the crucified, risen, reigning, and returning Lord.

01	Faithful Witness Jesus faithfully reveals God and remained obedient through death (Revelation 1:5).
02	Firstborn of the dead His resurrection begins the promised new creation and guarantees the future resurrection of His people (Revelation 1:5; 1 Corinthians 15:20–23).
03	Alpha and Omega / First and Last These titles express eternal sovereignty and are used within Revelation's divine self-revelation (Revelation 1:8, 17–18; 22:12–13).
04	Lion and Lamb Royal victory and sacrificial love meet in the One who was slain and now reigns (Revelation 5:5–14).
05	King of kings and Lord of lords Every rival rule is temporary; Jesus' righteous reign is final (Revelation 19:11–16).
06	Bright Morning Star Jesus is the promised royal light whose coming signals hope and the dawn of God's completed kingdom (Numbers 24:17; Revelation 22:16).

Advanced memory anchor

The titles do not compete. Together they reveal the one Jesus who was, is, and is to come.



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A PERSONAL INVITATION

The name above every name

The names and titles of Jesus are not trivia. They announce the good news that the eternal Son came near, lived without sin, died for our sins, rose bodily from the dead, reigns as Lord, and offers forgiveness and eternal life to everyone who trusts Him (1 Corinthians 15:1–4; Romans 10:9–13).

How do I respond?

01	Recognize your need All have sinned and fall short of God's glory; sin brings death and separation from God (Romans 3:23; 6:23).
02	Look to Jesus God demonstrates His love in that Christ died for us while we were still sinners (Romans 5:8).
03	Repent and believe Turn toward God and place your trust in the crucified and risen Jesus (Mark 1:15; Acts 3:19).
04	Confess Him as Lord Believe that God raised Jesus from the dead and openly entrust yourself to His rule (Romans 10:9–10).

A simple prayer

Lord Jesus, I know I have sinned and cannot save myself. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Please forgive me, make me new, and teach me to follow You as Savior and Lord. Amen.

A prayer is not a magic formula. Salvation is God's gift received through faith in Jesus. If this is your sincere response, begin reading His Word, pray honestly, and connect with a faithful local church that teaches Scripture in context (Ephesians 2:8–10; Acts 2:42).

Final memory anchor

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, the Lamb who saves, the Lord who reigns, and the Shepherd who keeps His own.