

MY NAME IS JEHOVAH NISSI

MY NAME IS, PART 1: JEHOVAH NISSI: THE LORD IS MY BANNER

I'm sure you'll agree with me that names are important. Names are useful because they allow us to label and remember the different people, places, and things we encounter each day. Names are also significant because they give us starting points for understanding and interacting with the world around us.

This series isn't a study about God's names—this is a study about God. Our goal is to increase our knowledge of God and to deepen our experiences with Him. We'll use His names as an entry point to achieve that goal, but always keep in mind that God's names are significant solely because they're connected to Him.

THE BIG IDEA: When we stand under the Banner of God, we find victory in God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do you feel about your name? Why? What do you know about the origins or history of your name?
2. Have you ever wanted to change your name? Why? If you had to pick any other name than what was given to you, what name would you pick?
3. [With your Bible or Bible App, read Proverbs 18:10.](#)

The name of the LORD is a strong fortress; the godly run to him and are safe. [Proverbs 18:10 \(NLT\)](#)

4. A strong fortress, or fortified tower was probably the safest place on earth. What is God trying to communicate about Himself and His character by using these words?
5. [With your Bible or Bible App, read Exodus 17:1-7.](#)

¹ At the LORD's command, the whole community of Israel left the wilderness of Sin and moved from place to place. Eventually they camped at Rephidim, but there was no water there for the people to drink. ² So once more the people complained against Moses. "Give us water to drink!" they demanded. "Quiet!" Moses replied. "Why are you complaining against me? And why are you testing the LORD?" ³ But tormented by thirst, they continued to argue with Moses. "Why did you bring us out of Egypt? Are you trying to kill us, our children, and our livestock with thirst?" ⁴ Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What should I do with these people? They are ready to stone me!" ⁵ The LORD said to Moses, "Walk out in front of the people. Take your staff, the one you used when you struck the water of the Nile, and call some of the elders of Israel to join you. ⁶ I will stand before you on the rock at Mount Sinai. Strike the rock, and water will come gushing out. Then the people will be able to drink." So Moses struck the rock as he was told, and water gushed out as the elders looked on. ⁷ Moses named the place Massah (which means "test") and Meribah (which means "arguing") because the people of Israel argued with Moses and tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD here with us or not?" [Exodus 17:1-7 \(NLT\)](#)

6. How would you summarize the complaints of the Israelites?

It's easy for us to judge the Israelites as we read their complaints against God. But I imagine we've all asked that question at some point: "Is the Lord among us or not?" We've all had moments when we thought, "Where is God? Why can't I ever find Him when I need Him the most?"

7. When have you recently asked those kinds of questions?
8. What specific situations typically cause you to question God?
9. [With your Bible or Bible App, read Exodus 17:8-13.](#)

⁸ While the people of Israel were still at Rephidim, the warriors of Amalek attacked them. ⁹ Moses commanded Joshua, "Choose some men to go out and fight the army of Amalek for us. Tomorrow, I will stand at the top of the hill, holding the staff of God in my hand." ¹⁰ So Joshua did what Moses had commanded and fought the army of Amalek. Meanwhile, Moses, Aaron, and Hur climbed to the top of a

nearby hill. ¹¹ As long as Moses held up the staff in his hand, the Israelites had the advantage. But whenever he dropped his hand, the Amalekites gained the advantage. ¹² Moses' arms soon became so tired he could no longer hold them up. So Aaron and Hur found a stone for him to sit on. Then they stood on each side of Moses, holding up his hands. So his hands held steady until sunset. ¹³ As a result, Joshua overwhelmed the army of Amalek in battle. [Exodus 17:8-13 \(NLT\)](#)

10. Moses was involved in a spiritual battle on top of that hill, and spiritual battles are tiring. He grew weary and began to lose strength. Fortunately, help was at hand. As Moses faded, Aaron and Hur stood beside him and held up his hands, ensuring a victory for God's people. Do you find it easy or difficult to ask for help? Explain.
11. How have you benefited from the support of fellow Christians, the church or people in this group?
12. What steps can you take to access God's power and deliverance during your times of need?
13. [With your Bible or Bible App, read Exodus 17:14-15.](#)

¹⁴ After the victory, the LORD instructed Moses, "Write this down on a scroll as a permanent reminder, and read it aloud to Joshua: I will erase the memory of Amalek from under heaven." ¹⁵ Moses built an altar there and named it Yahweh-Nissi (which means "the LORD is my banner").

[Exodus 17:14-15 \(NLT\)](#)

14. Today we usually associate a banner with a flag, or a piece of material placed on display. But in biblical times a banner could refer to any number of items. In this case the banner was Moses' staff—the rod of God. What was some of the miraculous feats God performed with Moses' ordinary staff? What miraculous things might God create through ordinary you?

THINK ABOUT IT

To approach God as Jehovah Nissi is to look toward Him as the source of power and deliverance in your life. The Lord My Banner means God has made Himself evident and available for those who look to Him in times of need. God fights for you.

MOVING FORWARD

Because of God's amazing power to overcome, He makes Himself known to us as Jehovah Nissi—the Lord our banner. If we choose to trust in Him, He will bless us with goodness, security, and hope for the future. He will stand with us in our thoughts and decisions, guiding us to the best possible options and solutions. He will move us forward and help us leave the regrets of the past in the past.

It's natural to turn inward to our own fears instead of turning to God, but we will always find ourselves in His reassuring presence if only we seek it. He is our banner when we're struggling with negative emotions, fractured relationships, failing health, or unfounded fear. And it is His will that we look to the future with hope and confidence, for He promises to give us the desires of our hearts as He leads us in His everlasting love.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

The name of the LORD is a strong fortress; the godly run to him and are safe.

Proverbs 18:10 (NLT)