



Bible Stories, Devotions, & Prayers About the Names of God

# I AM

40 REASONS to TRUST GOD



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# A Letter to Parents

Dear Parents,

Whenever we meet someone new, the first questions we usually ask are “What is your name?” and “What do you do?” We’re interested in getting to know this new acquaintance better, and most of the time, a name alone doesn’t tell us anything about this person’s character or activities.

But if we want to get to know God better, learning His names is a very good place to start. That’s because each of God’s names in the Bible tells us something about who He is, what He is like, or what He does.

The stories in this book begin with Genesis and end with Revelation. Although the focus is on God’s names, the overall story of the Bible—God’s plan from before creation to someday send Jesus, the One who would make things right again—is clearly presented too.

Some of the Bible’s names for God are actually descriptive titles, but for the sake of simplicity, the forty names and titles in this book are all referred to as names. With each one is a Bible story that gives young children an age-appropriate example of the meaning of the name. My prayer is that through these forty stories and the short devotions and prayers that accompany them, children everywhere will develop their understanding of God’s character, learn to know Him better, and grow to love Him more.

May Psalm 9:10 be true for you and your child as you explore the names of our loving, majestic God together: “Those who know your name put their trust in you.”

**Diane Stortz**  
Making Him known to  
the next generation



# Stories from the Old Testament





## CREATOR

Elohim [EL-o-HEEM]

# A Very Good World!

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*

—Genesis 1:1

**FROM GENESIS 1-2.** Long ago, God made everything out of nothing. First, God made the world, and then He began to fill it with beauty.

God said, “Let there be light.” And right away, light shone all around. God knew it was good. He parted the light from the darkness. God called the light *day*, and He called the darkness *night*. Evening came, then morning—the world was one day old.

On the second day, God said, “Let there be sky,” and the sparkling blue heavens appeared. Evening came, then morning—the world was two days old.

Next God said, “Waters, gather together so dry land can appear.” The waters obeyed! God called the waters *seas*, and He called the dry land *earth*. God liked what He saw—it was good!

“Now let plants and trees grow up out of the earth,” God said, “each with its own kind of seed.” *Pop, pop, pop!* Plants with colorful, crunchy vegetables and sweet-smelling flowers sprang out of the ground. Trees grew tall and bloomed with delicious fruit. God liked what He saw—it

was good! Evening came, then morning—the world was three days old.

On the fourth day, God decorated the sky. “Let there be lights in the heavens,” He said. God made the sun for the day and the moon for the night. And He made the stars—so many stars that only He could count them all! God knew it was good. Evening came, then morning—the world was four days old.

We live in a colorful, wonderful world with amazing sights and sounds. Someone powerful and loving made it all!

On the fifth day, God said, “Now for the living creatures!

First let’s fill the seas and the

heavens. Let there be big and small

creatures to swim in the seas and birds to

fly through the air.” *Swish! Splash! Swoosh!*

Fish and turtles and whales swarmed through the seas, and birds winged their way over the earth. God liked what He saw—it was good!

Evening came, then morning—the world was five days old.

On the sixth day, God said, “Let there be animals on the earth.” He made every kind of animal that lives on land—from the roaring jungle lion to the wiggly,





wiggly desert lizard. And  
God saw that it was good.

But God had saved the  
best for last. Now the world  
was ready for people!


“Let us make people in our  
image,” God said. “They will take  
care of this beautiful world and all the living  
creatures and animals.” So God made a man and a  
woman, Adam and Eve, and He blessed them.  
Evening came, then morning—the world was six days  
old. Everything God had made was very good.  
And on the seventh day, God rested.

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Do you like to make crafts or bake cookies?  
It’s fun to use materials like paper and glue  
or ingredients like flour and eggs—and  
maybe even chocolate chips!—to make  
something new. We *create* whenever we make  
something new out of items we already have.

God the *Creator* made the heavens and the  
earth—but He made everything out of nothing! No  
one else could ever do that. The very first name for God in  
the Bible is *Elohim*, which means “the highest, no one better.”  
Only God could create our beautiful, wonderful world!





Psalm 100:3, 5 says, “God . . . made us, and we belong to him. We are his people. . . . The Lord is good. His love continues forever” (ICB). God the Creator loves the world He made, and He loves you!

Dear God, thank You for making the world. Thank You for making me, my pets, and the people I love! You are my powerful, strong Creator! I love You, God. Amen.

#### LEARN MORE

- Psalm 95:6 says, “Let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!”
- King David wrote about the Creator and the world He made. You can find what David wrote in Psalm 8.

#### WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

Adam and Eve enjoyed God, the garden, and each other. They were happy! And then one day, they made a bad choice that changed everything . . .



An illustration of Jesus, with a beard and wearing a white robe with a red sash, standing on a grassy hill under a large, leafy green tree. He is gesturing with his hands as if speaking. A group of people, including men and women in various colorful robes and head coverings, are gathered on the hill, looking towards him. The background is a bright, hazy sky. The text "Stories from the New Testament" is written in a purple, serif font on the right side of the image.

# Stories from the New Testament



## GREAT PHYSICIAN

# Up, Down, Up

*"It is the sick who need a doctor. . . . I have come to invite sinners to change their hearts and lives!"*

— Luke 5:31–32 ICB

**FROM MATTHEW 9; MARK 2; LUKE 5.** "Jesus is back in town!" people in Capernaum said to one another. "Let's go see Him!" They filled the house where Jesus was staying—people even stood outside the door, looking in. Teachers and leaders had come to listen to Jesus too.

Then four friends came to the house, carrying a man on a mat. The man was paralyzed—he couldn't walk. "Jesus can heal you," the four friends told the man. "We are taking you to see Jesus!"

But not one more person could get into the house! What would the four friends do now?

"The roof!" the friends said. "Let's go up the stairs to the roof. Careful. Go slow. Don't drop him!" When they got to the roof, the four friends laid down the man on his mat. "Whew! We did it!" they said.

Jesus heals and forgives.







But how would they get down to where Jesus was?

"We'll make a hole in the roof!" the friends said, and they started digging. The grass and mud that formed the roof gave way, and the friends could see into the house. They saw Jesus! The friends kept digging. Soon the hole in the roof was big enough for the man on the mat to fit through.

"Down you go!" the four friends said, and they let the man down through the hole in the roof on his mat—right in front of Jesus!

"Hello, friend!" Jesus said. He could see that the man and the four friends had great faith. "Your sins are forgiven."

*Why did Jesus say that?* wondered the teachers and leaders. *No one except God can forgive sins!*

Jesus knew what they were thinking. "Is it easier to forgive sins or to heal?" He asked. "But so you will know I have authority to do both—" He turned to the man on the mat and said, "Get up, pick up your mat, and go home."

What would happen? No one said a word.

Then the man on the mat got up! He picked up his mat. People near the door squeezed together to clear a path for him. The happy man walked out the door and headed for home, just as Jesus had told him to do.

"Wow!" people said. "Amazing! And wonderful! We have never seen anything like this before!"

Dear God, thank You for Jesus, our Great Physician.  
I'm glad He knows how to make me well. Amen.



## WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Doctors help us get well when we are sick. What is your doctor's name?

Men and women go to college and medical school for many years before they can be doctors. They also promise to always do what is best for the sick people who come to them for help.

*Physician* is another word for *doctor*. We call Jesus the *Great Physician* because He is the very best doctor. He didn't have to go to school to learn how to make people well. He can heal our bodies when they are sick—and He can forgive our sins—because He is God. He can make us well in every way!

### LEARN MORE

When Jesus visited Peter's house, Peter's mother-in-law was sick. You can read what Jesus did in Matthew 8:14–15.

### WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

Jesus continued to teach and to heal. He chose twelve followers to become His special disciples. Great crowds followed Him wherever He went, and He taught them many things . . .

