



Objective: The students will consider God's eternal, self-existing nature.

Link:

We've been talking about the names of God. Let me ask you about your name. Does your name have a special meaning? (solicit some discussion)

Were you named for someone special? (discussion)

Is your name important to you? Why?

Names identify us. Names place us in a family, show our country. Names have meaning. Maybe our parents wanted us to be like our name's meaning. Or maybe our parents just liked the sound.

Introduction:

If you asked God, "What is your name?" what would He answer? Would He say "My name is Abba?" Or would He say "My name is Provider?" Or would He say "My name is Protection?" Or would He say "My name is Counselor?" Or would He say, "My name is Lord of All?"

Today we will read a story about Moses. In the story, Moses asks God "What is your name?" We will see what God answers.

Background:

The story happens when Moses is a shepherd. He has been a shepherd for 40 years. All day he has been taking care of sheep.

God's people are slaves in Egypt. God told Moses to go to Egypt and bring all the people back to the land of Israel. In the story today, Moses is talking to God about what to do.

Questions:

- Find two names for God. (1. I AM 2. The God of your ancestors, or The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.)

Read Exodus 3: 13-15

Answer the questions

Go on.

God told Moses that His name was “I AM.” That’s kind of strange. God didn’t say “My name is God.” He said, “I AM WHO I AM.” What could that name mean? Why do you think that God said His name was “I AM?” (let the students think about this and give answers.)

This name tells us that God is, that God was, and that God will be. It tells us that God is – that He is living. It tells us that God was – that God was always living. And it tells us that God will be – He will live forever. It tells us that God is eternal. (write on board) He did not have a beginning. He will not have an end. God cannot die. (Praise God if someone brings up that Jesus Christ was God but He died on the cross! This is a great mystery and a wonderful truth. The Bible teaches that the God who can never die became a man and died for sinners.)

This name tells us something else. It tells us that God is complete in Himself. He was not born, and he does not need anyone else for His life. He is perfectly and fully complete in Himself.

This name tells us that God is a great God. He is eternal and complete. He doesn’t need us, but because of His love and His joy He created us to enjoy a relationship with Him.

The second name we found today shows God’s love. He said that He would always be called the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This great, eternal God will be called the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He is happy to be called their God, just like a father is happy to say “I am Makito’s father” or “I am (own name)’s father” or “I am (student’s name)’s father.”

God is eternal and complete and loving. I hope that all of you will come to Him someday.

That’s all.