

Advent 2025: Hello, My Name is Jesus: The Lord Saves

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Matthew 1:18-21 & Luke 15

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The angel told Joseph the baby would be named Jesus (the LORD saves)

Names and their meanings can hold a lot of importance.

Read and discuss Matthew 1:21 (NIV)

21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

*Does your name have a meaning or a special story about why you were named that?

*What names of God resonate deeply with you and why?

Jesus was a common name and translates to the name Joshua in Hebrew

The Joshua we read about in the Old Testament foreshadows Jesus in several ways.

*How do you see Jesus foreshadowed in the person of Joshua?

*What does it mean for you to point people to Jesus in your context?

The father of the prodigal son demonstrates love like Jesus

Read and discuss Luke 15:11-24 (NIV)

11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. 13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. 17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' 20 So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

*How do you see Jesus in the father in this parable?

*How have you experienced God running to you with arms open?

Jesus the Lord saves – and saves with love

He is longing to embrace us.

*What difference would it make for you to understand that Jesus did not just come to save but came to save with love?

*What is the Spirit saying to you about the Lord who saves you with love this Advent season?