

St Thomas Home Group Study

January 2023 - Week 1

Naming and circumcision of Jesus

Read the study passage: Luke 2:15-21

How do I relate with this story?

Q1 Jesus' name was given to him by his Father (via an angel and his parents). For each of us our name is a big part of our identity? Who chose your name, do you like it, what does it say about you, does it reflect who you are? What does your name mean?

The Study

- Q2 Why was circumcision performed on Jesus eight days after his birth? (*Leviticus 12:3*)
- Q3 What is the significance of the circumcision of Jewish boys? (*Genesis 17:10-12*)
- Q4 What else happened to the child upon his circumcision? (*Luke 2:21*)
- Q5 Why was the child given the name Jesus? (*Matt 1:21-25*)
- Q6 What does the name Jesus mean?
- Q7 How do we see the significance of Jesus' name throughout the rest of his life?
- Q8 How do you understand the phrase: "But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart"? (Lk 2:19, NIV) (*See also 1:66 and 2:51*)
- Q9 How do you relate to the words of John Newton's hymn opposite?
- Q10 Join together in the words of the Collect opposite, and close in prayer.



Naming and circumcision of Jesus

The Background

- Many Jews were looking for a political leader to deliver them from Roman rule, while others were hoping for a saviour to deliver them from sickness and physical hardship. Jesus was to be a very different saviour, born to deliver them from sin and death.
- Jesus was referred to equally as: 'the Christ' (Greek) and 'the Messiah' (Hebrew), both mean "the Anointed One".
- The name of Jesus.

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!

It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,
and drives away his fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole,
and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary rest.

Vs 1 & 2 from the hymn by John Newton (1725-1807)

Almighty God,
whose blessed Son was circumcised
in obedience to the law for our sake
and given the Name that is above every name:
give us grace faithfully to bear his Name,
to worship him in the freedom of the Spirit,
and to proclaim him as
the Saviour of the world;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus

