

KINDERGARTEN

God Loves Us



AUTHORS
Sisters of Notre Dame
Chardon, Ohio

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Dedicated to St. Julie Billiart, foundress of the Sisters of Notre Dame, in gratitude for her inspiration and example

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3441 N. Ashland Avenue
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(800) 621-1008
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Names Are Good



Who Are You?

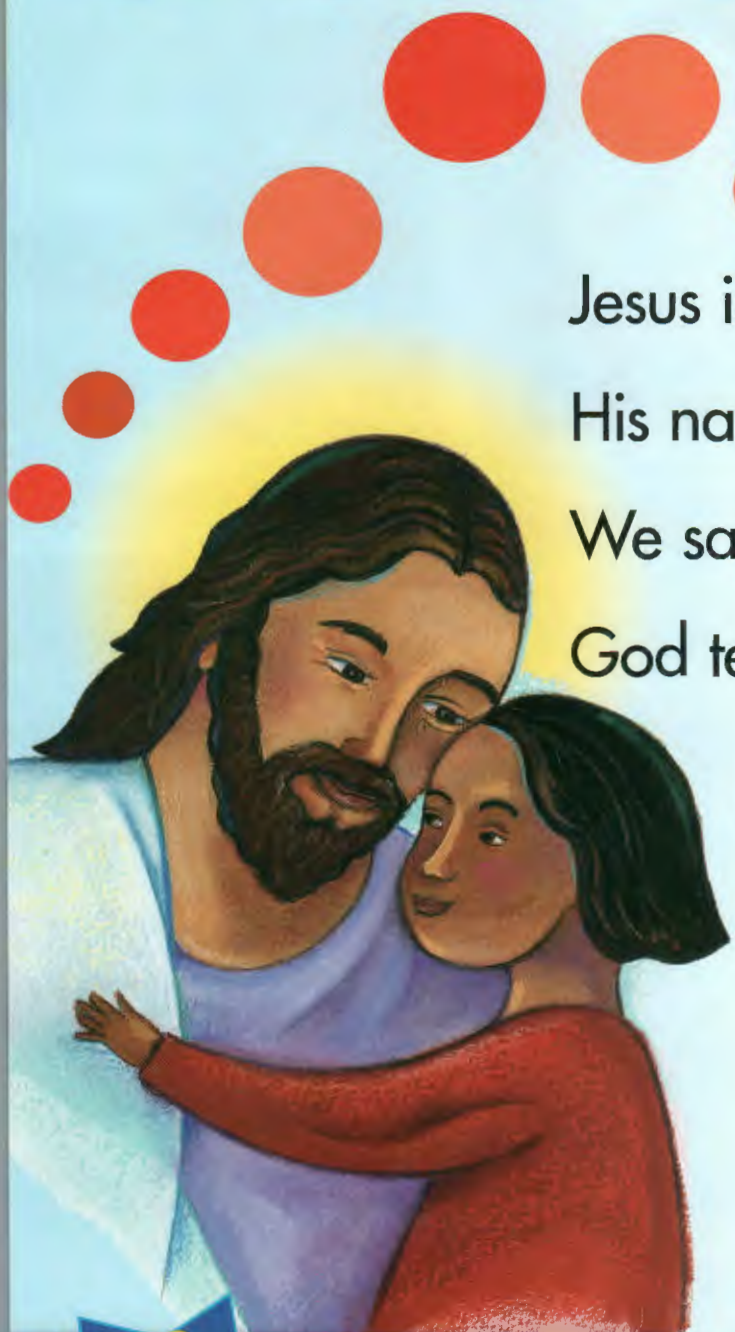
I'm Anna!



When our friends call us
by name, we feel good.

My name is

Handwriting practice lines consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.



Jesus is God.
His name is holy.
We say Jesus' name with love.
God tells us his name.

He loves us.



Scripture

At the name of Jesus every knee should bend. Based on Philippians 2:9-10





Try This

Jesus' name is holy.
Color the letters in Jesus' name.

Jesus



Names in Families

The Lesson Your Child Learned

To pronounce the name of Jesus reverently is to show respect for him. In this chapter the children talked about the importance of names. They were led to experience the mystery of God by becoming aware that Jesus' name is holy.



Living the Lesson

You may have seen that running gag on the TV show *Seinfeld*. Every time Jerry ran into the irritating neighbor who lived upstairs, he would sneer his name, "Newman," in the same way you might talk about a dreaded disease. That one word spoke volumes about Jerry's negative feelings. It was a recurring example of how the way we use names reveals what's in our hearts.

We should be careful with the names we use and how we use them. Every one of us longs for respect. We can offer that respect to those in our family as a way of recognizing that we are all made in the image of God. One of the surest ways to show respect is to say one another's names with kindness and care—even when we are angry!

There was an e-mail going around the Internet a few years ago listing the responses of young children to the question, "How would you define the word love?" One five-year-old reportedly said, "When somebody loves you, your name is safe in their mouth." To take this week's lesson to heart, make sure the names of your family members are "safe in your mouth" and show the same care for the names we use for God.

—Tom McGrath, author of *Raising Faith-Filled Kids* (Loyola Press)

Bringing the Lesson Home

- Read with your child the pages that were sent home.
- Share with your child the significance of his or her name—its meaning and why it was chosen. If the name was given to honor a family member or friend, tell about the qualities of that person that you admire. Encourage your child to greet by name the people he or she meets.
- Talk with your child about nicknames. Tell your child that nicknames are welcome and fun only if the person likes the name he or she is being called. Explain that one of the first things bullies usually do is give mean names to the kids they want to bully—and that is wrong.
- Some families make a practice of bowing their head slightly whenever they use the name of Jesus. This is something your family might like to do as a sign of respect for our Lord.
- Pray Psalm 8:2 as part of your family prayers this week. Ask your child to teach you and other family members the gestures for this psalm and pray it together as a family.

