

## Called by Name

ISAIAH 43:1

*But as Joseph was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel said, “Joseph, son of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit. She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That is because he will save his people from their sins.”*

—Matthew 1:20-21 NIV

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### *New Testament Devotion*

## **The Naming of Jesus**

There is something all people have in common. We are all called something; we all have a name. Many parents spend a lot of time choosing the perfect name to give their baby. Some choose a name that is passed down through their family. Others choose a name with special meaning. Some just choose a pretty or fun name.

- **Do you have a story about how you got your name?**

When we read today’s Bible passage, Joseph and Mary were not married yet. An angel came to visit Joseph in a dream. The angel told Joseph that the baby Mary would have was from the Holy Spirit. The angel told Joseph the baby would be a boy and he should be named Jesus!

- **How do you think it would feel to see an angel?**
- **(Reread the Bible passage.) Why did God choose the name Jesus?**  
(The name Jesus means “God saves.”)

Jesus is the Son of God, a very special baby. This special baby needed a very special name. Someone who loved us gave us our names when we were born. God gave Jesus his name. Our scripture verse says Jesus was given his name because he would save his people from their sins.

- **How did Jesus save us from our sins?**  
(Jesus died on the cross and rose from death to save us from our sins.)
- **Why did God send Jesus to save us?**  
(God created us and loves us; we belong to him.)

Think about these words from the book of Isaiah. “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name, you are mine.” (Isaiah 43:1 NRSV) We are very special to God. God loves all of us, and he loves all of us the same! God calls us his children in Jesus Christ; we belong to him.

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank you for sending your Son Jesus to save us from our sins. Thank you for loving us so much you call us your children. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.