

Two Important Names

Amos had been enjoying his favorite activity—barking at and chasing squirrels. Then, he ran deep into the woods. Jackie was afraid she would never see her beloved dog, Amos, again.

Fortunately, a neighbor found him and brought him home.

"Amos! There you are!" Jackie exclaimed.

Just saying his name made Jackie happy. He was not just any dog. He was a specific dog with a specific name.

We name things we love. We name things that are special and unique. That is why your parents named you when you were born! You are not just anyone; you are a specific person with a specific name. Your birth certificate proudly documents your full name for anyone to see.

Along with the name you were given at birth, you were given another name in Baptism. You were baptized into the name of Jesus. Through water and God's Word, the name of Jesus was forever given to you. Now, you personally bear the name of Jesus! Your baptismal certificate proudly documents your new name for all of heaven and earth to see.

Since you bear the name of Jesus, you can forgive in His name, love in His name, and have compassion in His name. You have two names: the name your parents gave you and the name your heavenly Father gave you. Wherever you go, you now bear the name of Jesus.

Journal:

How did your parents choose your name?

Pray:

Dear God, I have not always realized how special I am to You. I have not always acted as Your child. Forgive me! Thank You for calling me in Baptism to be Yours. Help me proudly to bear the name of Jesus wherever I am. Amen. T. S.

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Tuesday

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself."

Acts 2:37-39