

# *Your Secret Name*

*Discovering Who God Created You To Be*

*Small Group Study Guide*

*Teacher's Edition*

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*To Our Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

*Thanks for taking the risk to go deeper with the truth of Your Secret Name. It is our desire that God draws you closer to Him in this process.*

*Don't rush. Take as long as you'd like. Although we have organized this guide into 6 lessons you can turn it into 60! The goal is not to finish quickly.*

*Rather, the goal is for you to discover more about your Father and more about yourself. Wade in slowly. Take off your masks, one at a time. And join God in the most exciting journey, the journey of discovering Who you are in Jesus Christ.*

*May God bless you in your study.*

*Kary & David*

Feel to make copies of this study guide to share with others, but do not charge for those copies or alter the content in any way without permission.

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# *Your Secret Name Study Guide*

## **Lesson 1 – The Name Game**

### **The Significance of Names**

- 1. Amazingly enough, there was a time in history before human names. Grab your Bible and skim the first two chapters of Genesis. As you read, write down the names humans are called. What is significant about this? (If possible, use a concordance and dictionary to compare the meaning and uses of the names listed.)**

*In every instance, the Hebrew word used for the man simply means man or mankind. Some versions of the Bible will use the word Adam to identify the man in 2:20. However, if you look at the original Hebrew, the word used is the same as in the other verses. In other words, man was known for what he was not who he was. These human names were man/woman, man/wife and male/female.*

- 2. In Genesis 2:19 God gave man a task. What was it? What is man's relationship to the living creatures?**

*God brought the living creatures to the man and instructed him to name them. God was sharing the creative experience with man, giving him full authority to name the creatures.*

*Humankind was placed in a position of authority over the living creatures. Just as God rules over all creation, so humans are to rule over the earth through the power of God.*

- 3. Continue with the story by reading Genesis 3. What is the first thing Adam does after God confronts him with his sin and administers curses? Why did he do this?**

*Man's first act after God administered the curses was to name his wife Eve (3:20). He does this because his relationship with God is now shattered. No longer able to see himself vertically, he is left to define himself horizontally.*

*Up until this point, the only things man named were living creatures. He did so because God gave him authority over them. This was not the original intent of his relationship with his wife. However, now that sin has entered the picture, he assumes this role over her.*

*Adam looked at his wife and did not understand who she was. He no longer sees God's image reflected in her, so he gives her a name in relation to humankind – Eve, the mother of all living.*

- 4. Genesis 11 tells the story of the tower of Babel. Read the story carefully and note the real reason for building the tower. What is significant about this?**

*The reason they decided to build the tower is stated in verse 4:*

*They said, “Come let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and **let us make for ourselves a name**, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.” Genesis 11:4 NASB*

*The people of that day were looking for a unique and significant feat to help them find their identity. The tower would be the great accomplishment for which they would be known. This was the purpose for their lives and a unifying event for all the people of that region. The tower would bond them together and keep them from scattering.*

*God knew the tower would result in humanity’s destruction, so He stopped construction of it. Finding our identity in the things of this world leads us deeper and deeper into sin and farther away from freedom in God.*

### **God’s Role in Your Name**

- 1. Beside their birth name, when you first meet a man, how does he typically identify himself? When you first meet a woman?**

*Men will typically identify themselves by their work, women by their relationships.*

- 2. Return to the story of the fall of humankind in Genesis 3:1-19. As you read, pay special attention to verses 16-19. What did God curse related to the woman’s life? To the man’s? Of all the things God could have chosen, why did He curse those things? (Remember God never does anything without a purpose.)**

*In verse 16 we see God bringing pain into childbirth for the woman as well as strain in her relationship with her husband. In verse 17-19, God cursed the labor of man. All work will now be done with great difficulty and struggle. God cursed these two areas of our lives because they are the primary places we seek to find our identities outside of Him.*

*Although there are exceptions, women generally identify themselves according to relationships. If women have all their needs met in relationships, they would not be motivated to seek out a relationship with God. Men tend to identify themselves through their jobs, believing life will be worthwhile if they accomplish certain things. God frustrates these tendencies in order that we surrender and find our Secret Name and discover who we were created to be.*

- 3. In Genesis 1:26 we read about God’s vision for us as a people. How did He make us and what purpose did He give to us?**

*We are made in God’s image, according to His likeness. Because of this, we only understand who we are when we see ourselves as image bearers.*

*Humankind was called to rule over creation. We were not given a small part in God’s plan. We were adopted and accepted as part of His royal family, destined to rule over creation through God’s power and authority. Sadly, when humankind fell into sin, we lost our understanding of who we really are and what we were called to do.*

- 4. In Exodus 3, we read the story of Moses encountering God in a burning bush. As God begins to speak, He places a calling and a mission on Moses’ life. What was that calling? What was Moses’ response?**

*In verse 10, God calls Moses to be a DELIVERER. He was to go back into the land where he was a wanted man, using the power and authority of God’s name to overcome his past and set his fellow Israelites free.*

*In verse 11, Moses responds with a question – ‘Who Am I?’. Moses still doesn’t understand who he is. He doesn’t see the character of God reflected in his life for this specific time and place.*

*God’s calling and vision for our lives is always larger than our comfort zone. Moses spent 40 years hiding from the rest of the world (as well as the murder in his past) as a shepherd in Midian. Moses became content living small. Now, God was calling him out, asking Moses to live powerfully through Him. This overwhelmed Moses and caused him a great deal of stress.*

- 5. It is significant to note God’s response to Moses. Write down the first few words that God spoke in verse 12. How was Moses supposed to find his identity?**

*“Certainly, I will be with you...” This was all Moses needed to know. The God who created the universe was going to be with him through this journey. God would provide everything necessary to set the Israelites free. Moses’ job was to believe in God and trust in His power to do what He had promised. In doing so, Moses would find his identity through the power of God flowing through him.*

- 6. Moses is not yet convinced. He asks God a question in verse 13. How did God respond?**

*Moses hears God say He will be with him. However, Moses does not yet have confidence in his relationship with God. So he responds with ‘Who are you?’*

*Even though God already stated who He was in verse 6, He answers Moses’ question anyway. At first glance, God’s response is curious – ‘I AM WHO I AM’. While this is an unusual answer, we must understand that God cannot be described in finite terms. He is far too big.*

*Scholars understand this as 'I AM WHO I REVEAL MYSELF TO BE'. Simply put, God tells Moses that His name will be whatever His attributes reveal Him to be. For example, when God protects a certain individual, then to that person God is known by the name PROTECTOR. (Your Secret Name, pg 163)*

## **Your Secret Name**

- 1. Read Revelation 2:17. What is the significance of the name written on the white stone that Jesus gives us?**

*The name written on the white stone is our Secret Name. It is our true identity. It is the name God gave us when He knew us long before we were born. It is how God sees us.*

*It is important to note the phrase 'To him who overcomes...' God gives Secret Names to those who are ready to receive them. Only God knows your Secret Name and only He can give it to you. Before you receive your Secret Name, you must accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior and engage God in a genuine relationship.*

- 2. The word for stone (*psēphos*) is used in only one other verse in the Bible – Acts 26:10. How is the word used in this verse? (Some versions use the word vote.) Read Chapter 14 of *Your Secret Name* and discover why Jesus writes our Secret Names on white stones.**

*It was a tool used to determine guilt or innocence. In a court of law, if a person was determined to be guilty, they would cast a dark stone against them. If a person was deemed innocent, they would cast a white stone.*

*Additionally, since there were no printing presses in New Testament times, invitations to banquets and parties would be written on white stones. If you were fortunate enough to be invited to a banquet, you would receive a white stone with your name written on it. When you arrived at the banquet, the stone would serve as your ticket for admittance.*

*Our Secret Names are written on white stones because God wants us to know that we are now viewed as righteous and holy in His eyes. We are accepted by Him and invited to dine with Him at the great wedding banquet of the Lamb.*

**3. Why don't we know our Secret Names? The answer can be found by reading Isaiah 42:16. How does God describe our spiritual state? What does Jesus want to do about it? (Luke 4:18)**

*Because of sin, we are spiritually blind and deaf. We no longer understand who we were created to be. We stumble through our lives trying on various relationships and careers in an attempt to find our place in the world. However, outside of God we cannot know our true purpose.*

*In Luke 4:18, we read Jesus' mission statement. He came to preach the gospel to the poor, proclaim release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind and set free those who are oppressed. Jesus is offering to heal our spiritual vision. He stands ready to restore us to our rightful place in God's kingdom. To proclaim our release from the Given Names of the world that are holding us captive.*



*Your Secret Name is your identity in Christ. It is the image of God reflected in your life. It explains who you are and what God called you to be. It is the key to unlocking many of the mysteries of your soul. God alone knows it. He wants to reveal it to you. However, before you receive it, you must be willing to encounter the love of God.*

# *Your Secret Name Study Guide*

## **Lesson 2 – Seeing the Masks**

### **The Masks That We Wear**

- 1. Given Names are the masks or identities that we take on in an attempt to find meaning in our lives or deal with our pain. They take the form of positive identities that we reach for throughout our lives. Or perhaps, they are lies spoken against us that we unfortunately believed. Given Names can be things we try to model ourselves after or rebel against. Following the questions for this lesson is a list of sample positive and negative Given Names. Review this list and note which ones apply to you. Write down these names as well as any additional ones that come to you on the “Hello My Name Is” form. This exercise is designed for you to be honest with yourself. It is not meant to be shared with anyone.**

*Question is designed for personal reflection.*

- 2. Now, go back over your list of names and ask yourself these questions – How comfortable are you wearing these names? Are you content with the names the world has placed on you? Or is there a part of you that longs for something more?**

*Question is designed for personal reflection.*

### **Jacob’s Journey**

- 1. The birth names of both Jacob and Esau played an important role in their lives. Research what their names mean and how they played out in their lives.**

*Esau means ‘hairy’. When he was born he was covered with hair, so the name has obvious physical implications. As Esau grows older, we see his life characterized by physical attributes. He works with his hands and is a skilled hunter. When Esau gets angry, he threatens physical violence.*

*Jacob means ‘heel snatcher’ or ‘supplanter’. He is a man that lives among the tents. Jacob is known for his mental attributes far more than his physical ones. He gets through life by manipulating his circumstances. When Jacob is in a difficult situation, he schemes his way out rather than becoming physically aggressive.*



**2. Take a moment to read Genesis 29:21-35. What happened in this story? What parallels does this have to Jacob's life so far?**

*Jacob has completed his 7 years of labor and is ready to consummate his marriage to Rachel. After nightfall, Laban gives his daughter Leah in marriage to Jacob instead. Jacob does not realize the deceit until the next morning. Now that the marriage has been consummated, it is too late. After protesting the treachery, Jacob agrees to another 7 years of labor in return for Rachel's hand in marriage.*

*The parallels to the story are found in that it was not long ago that a mother (Rebekah) and a son (Jacob) conspired together to deceive a father (Isaac). Now, a father (Laban) and daughter (Leah) worked together to deceive a son (Jacob). On the receiving end of the treachery, Jacob does not like how it tastes.*

**3. Continue reading the story in Genesis 30:1-4. How would you describe Jacob's marriage to Rachel? (Remember Jacob's feelings toward her described in Genesis 29:20.) Is Jacob finding his Secret Name in his marriage?**

*Amazingly enough, the relationship between Jacob and Rachel has gone sour. Remember, it was only a few verses before that Jacob was head over heels in love with her.*

*In 30:1, we see Rachel becoming angry with Jacob for failing to give her any children. In verse 2, we read about Jacob's anger burning against her. The relationship that started out being defined by love, is now marked by jealousy and anger. So much so that Rachel demands Jacob sleep with her maid Bilhah to give her a child.*

*Despite all of the hope and promise Jacob had for his marriage, it has become a bitter disappointment. Not only did he not intend to marry Leah, but now his relationship with Rachel is strained. In an attempt to hold his family together, he finds himself sleeping with the maids.*

**4. Genesis 30:5-24 gives us a glimpse as to what life was like in Jacob's household. As you read these verses, describe the dynamic you see being played out. What names are Rachel and Leah pursuing in an attempt to find meaning in their lives?**

*Rachel and Leah are engaged in heated competition to produce the most children. Caring about each other has given way to scheming and manipulation for the opportunity to become pregnant. In verses 14-16 we even see them bartering mandrakes for the right to sleep with Jacob.*

*In addition to the obvious name MOTHER, there are several other names they are pursuing. In verse 6, when Rachel's maid Bilhah gives birth to Dan, she latches onto the name VINDICATED. In verse 7 Rachel claims the name PREVAILED.*

*Leah claims the name FORTUNATE when her maid Zilpah bears Gad. After Zilpah gave birth to Asher, Leah believes she will now be HAPPY. After Issachar's birth, Leah declares herself PAID (God has given me my wages – vs. 18). Finally, after the birth of Zebulun she states she will finally be WANTED by Jacob because she bore him six sons.*

*When Rachel finally gave birth to Joseph, she calls herself WITHOUT REPROACH. Yet as soon as he was born, she went immediately back to God asking for another son.*

*It is obvious that neither woman felt loved. This drove them to ridiculous acts in an attempt to outdo each other. They falsely believed that if they could just produce another child, they would be loved and respected. Sadly, it never happened.*

- 5. As the story continues to unfold in Genesis 30:25 – 31:2, we read about Jacob's career. Jacob has now become a wealthy man. But has he found his true identity in his career? Did Jacob's problems increase or decrease because of his wealth?**

*When Jacob first came to Laban, he possessed nothing but the clothes on his back. Now he has become exceedingly wealthy (30:43). To an outsider, it appeared that Jacob had made something of himself, that he had made a "name" for himself.*

*However, Laban's sons saw Jacob becoming wealthy at Laban's expense (31:1). Watching their inheritance dwindle away, they became filled with jealousy. An already difficult family environment has become even more strained.*

*While Jacob possessed more resources, he also had more problems. Things finally got so bad he packed up and headed back home to the land of his father Isaac, where his brother Esau lived. The same Esau who wanted to kill him for stealing his blessing.*

- 6. Laban served an important role in Jacob's life. What kind of a person was Laban? (Reference Genesis 29:21-27; 30:27; 31:1-2; 31:6-7; 31:14-15; 31:43) What do you think God's divine purpose was for placing Laban in Jacob's life?**

*While Jacob had proven to be a skilled schemer, he was no match for Laban's treachery.*

*Laban was dishonest enough to switch wives on Jacob (28:21-27). Not only was this contrary to the agreement he made with Jacob, but it put his oldest daughter Leah in a terrible position. She would be married to a man who clearly did not want her and would likely be unloved her entire life.*

*Laban was involved in witchcraft/sorcery (30:27). Despite knowing that God blessed him because of Jacob, Laban became jealous of Jacob and turned against him (31:1-2). In 31:6-7, Jacob accused him of changing his wages 10 times.*

*Rachel and Leah no longer see themselves as part of Laban's family. Rather, they consider themselves foreigners in their own household (31:14-15). Later, when it became advantageous to Laban, he claimed Rachel and Leah as well as Jacob's children and possessions as his own. (31:43)*

*So why would God place such a corrupt person in Jacob's life? To make Jacob face his own junk. God knew the deceit in Jacob's heart. Before Jacob could become the man God wanted him to be, he would have to turn away from a life of scheming and deceit.*

*God still does this today. He brings wicked people into our lives and forces us to deal with all sorts of immoral attitudes and behaviors. He does this with the hope that they will cause us to turn away from our own sin and to Him for our strength.*

- 7. After all that had happened, Jacob was about to face his brother Esau and the lie that started everything. Upon hearing his messenger's report in Genesis 32:6, what do you think Jacob's state of mind was? Was Jacob coming to the end of himself?**

*Jacob was in a panic. The original plan was for him to spend a few days with Laban (27:43-44) until Esau's anger cooled off. Rebekah would send for him when it was safe to return. She never did. Now, twenty years later, he has nowhere left to run. Not only is Esau coming to meet him, but he is bringing 400 men with him. Jacob is convinced Esau's intends to attack and destroy him (32:7).*

*Faced with the possible end of his life, Jacob created one last scheme. He divided all of his possessions into two groups and sent them across the river, hoping that if one group was destroyed, the other would escape and survive (32:8). Jacob put together a gift and sent it ahead of them, taking a chance that he could appease Esau's anger.*

*Jacob realized he was in over his head. In 32:9-12 we see the first recorded account in scripture of Jacob asking God for help. Now, faced with his own mortality he finally saw his need for God. This shift in thinking was extremely important for Jacob being ready to receive his Secret Name. He was starting to look outside of himself for answers.*

## **Personal Application**

- 1. God uses people in each of our lives to make us "face our own junk". They do not need to be righteous people. In fact, they are often far worse than we are. But God uses them for a holy purpose. Who are the Labans in your life? What divine purpose do you think God has for you through these difficult relationships or circumstances?**

*God wants each of us to turn from our sins and realize our need for Him. It is important to realize that difficult circumstances and relationships are in our lives for a reason. We must go to Him and ask Him to show us what He wants us to learn. We must rely on His strength to overcome whatever challenges we are currently facing.*

- 2. What are the masks you wear in your life? What games are you playing to try and acquire the names that you desire? How has God frustrated those paths? Most importantly, are you prepared to get real, engage God and lay down your masks?**

*Question is designed for personal reflection.*

## Sample Given Names

### Negative Names

Abandoned	Accident	Alone	Average	Bankrupt
Battered	Broken	Calloused	Common	Depressed
Despair	Discontent	Disposable	Distraught	Disturbed
Divorced	Downcast	Exhausted	Failure	Fat
Foolish	Forgotten	Gay	Guilty	Helpless
Idiot	Incapable	Indecisive	Invisible	Lazy
Loser	Lost	Needy	Outcast	Overwhelmed
Plain	Rejected	Sinner	Slut	Suicidal
Tired	Trapped	Ugly	Unappreciated	Unfaithful
Unloved	Unseen	Unstable	Unwanted	Used
Victim	Violent	Weak	Whore	Wimp

### Positive Names

Artistic	Athletic	Attractive	Beautiful	The Boss
Champion	Creative	Desired	Engaging	Enjoyable
Enviably	Famous	Father	Friend	Fun-Loving
Funny	Gifted	Gorgeous	Grandfather	Grandmother
Handsome	Happy	Healthy	Helpful	Hero
High Achiever	Hot	Husband	Important	In Control
Independent	Leader	Likeable	Mother	Physically Fit
Pleasant	Popular	Positive	Powerful	Prosperous
Respected	Savior	Sexy	Significant	Skilled
Smart	Strong	Successful	Superior	Talented
Thin	Wanted	Wealthy	Wife	Winner

*For more information on Given Names and Secret Names, please consider taking the Secret Name Test located at [www.yoursecretname.com/test](http://www.yoursecretname.com/test)*

**HELLO**

**my name is**

# *Your Secret Name Study Guide*

## **Lesson 3 – Removing the Masks**

### **The Mask Traders**

- 1. Read the story of Cain in Genesis 4:1-16. Based on what you have learned so far about Secret Names, what did Cain do here? What did God offer to do for him in verses 6-7a? What did God warn him of if he did not honestly engage God in verse 7b?**

*In this story, Cain and Abel presented offerings to the Lord. Abel presented a suitable offering that was accepted. Cain's offering was rejected.*

*Cain failed to meet God's expectations. Now, he was presented with a choice. He could trade the name FAILURE for a series of other Given Names – ANGRY, BITTER and JEALOUS among them. Or, he could turn to God and ask for forgiveness. In verses 6-7, we see God offering to heal and restore Cain. He also warns Cain of the consequences of living through these Given Names. However, the choice was Cain's to make.*

*The same is true of our lives. We can turn to God and be restored, or we can latch onto Given Names. Just like Cain, if we refuse God's mercy, sin lays crouching in wait for us.*

- 2. II Samuel 1-10 details the rise of King David. David had become an extremely powerful man and in everything he did sought God's blessing. However, something in David was changing. What did David do in II Samuel 8:13?**

*David made a name for himself (or became famous) after his victory over the Edomites in the Valley of Salt. While David previously fought through the power of God's name in his victory over Goliath, he was starting to take some of the glory for himself.*

- 3. Three chapters later in II Samuel 11, a significant event occurred in David's life. What did David do? What correlation is there between this event and II Samuel 8:13?**

*Here we read of David's great sin with Bathsheba. Prior to this event, a shift in attitude and perspective had clearly occurred. Because of his history of success and his position as king, he believed that there was nothing he could not have or do. David now believed that at least part of his success was due to his SKILL and ABILITY.*

*His strength was no longer flowing through the power of God's name. Instead, it was coming from names such as KING, MIGHTY WARRIOR, POWERFUL, ENTITLED. Because David stepped outside of God's name, he was doomed to fall.*

- 4. Read Chapter 7 of *Your Secret Name* – Three Heartbreaks. What were the Given Names that God was trying to strip Kary of? What did Kary replace those Given Names with? Can you name the masks?**

*Kary's identity was wrapped up in his name MOST VALUABLE WRESTLER (pg 84), his SELF CONFIDENCE (pg 86-87) and his INDEPENDENCE (pg. 87-88). When those masks were stripped away, Kary responded as most of us do. He replaced them with different masks. This time, he wore the names BITTER, FORSAKEN, UNLOVED, UNIMPORTANT, QUITTER and UNKNOWN.*

### **Getting Real With God**

- 1. Read Genesis 32:24-32. Jacob was officially at the end of his rope. His career had been filled with struggle, his marriages were a mess and now he was potentially facing death at the hand of his own brother. In the midst of all of this stress, God showed up and initiated a wrestling match. Why would God do this?**

*It had taken Jacob 20 years of working for Laban to realize he could not overcome the challenges in his life through his Given Names. Now, God is determined to take him the rest of the way. If Jacob is going to find his Secret Name, he must engage God. Knowing that Jacob is at a breaking point, God stepped directly into Jacob's life to initiate a struggle designed to bring Jacob to a decision point for his future.*

- 2. The wrestling match likely went on for hours. For whose benefit was it? Why did God allow it to last as long as it did? (There is more than one reason.)**

*The wrestling match was solely for the benefit of Jacob. Jacob's life had been marked by FRUSTRATION, DISAPPOINTMENT, FEAR and ANGER. All of these masks needed to be rejected. Since Jacob was clearly a strong-willed man, it was going to take awhile for him to work through his pain. God was giving Jacob an opportunity to "Take it all out on Him".*

*God let the match continue for a period of time to see if Jacob would quit. Would he continue to engage God in a struggle, or would he give up and go back to his old ways (names)?*

*God also wanted to give Jacob confidence. He wanted Jacob to understand that through God he could overcome anything. While God could clearly have "won" the match if He wanted, that was not His objective.*



- 3. When God saw that Jacob would not be overcome, He decided to end the fight. Since God can enter and exit His creation any way He pleases, why didn't He just disappear?**

*By this point in the wrestling match, Jacob understood who he was wrestling against. He knew that he had encountered God. With that in mind, God pulled away from Jacob to see what his response would be. Would Jacob let Him go? Or would he fight to keep Him around?*

- 4. God touched the socket of Jacob's hip and dislocated it. Why? What did Jacob have to choose between? What was Jacob's response?**

*Up to now, Jacob had been living through the names of his flesh. Every time he faced a challenge, he used his natural talents, abilities and resources to deal with it. God was trying to change all of that.*

*God inflicted a divine wound on Jacob's hip. Jacob was now faced with a choice. He could let go of God and focus on the pain in his hip, or he could ignore his flesh and cling to God. Jacob had to choose what was more important to him. Did he want to live through the power of the names of his flesh or the power of the name of God?*

- 5. In response to God's demand to be let go, Jacob insisted on being blessed. What led him to make this request? What was Jacob beginning to do?**

*Jacob was beginning to understand what God was doing. He realized that if he was going to survive his encounter with Esau, he needed God's blessing on his life. His own strength would not be enough. So he clung to God and refused to let go until He blessed him.*

## **The Face in the Mirror**

- 1. The only way to be healed and discover who you really were created to be is to lay down your masks and get real with God. We must stop trying to fix ourselves. Only God can heal us. We must stop playing pretend and realize He knows everything about us. Even our most wicked thoughts. What masks do you need to repent of and let go? Write them down.**

*This question is designed for deep personal honesty. Participants should only share if they willingly decide to do so.*

- 2. In Chapter 13 (The Divine Wound) Kary had a moment where he stared at himself in the mirror and realized he needed help, when he knew he would never fix himself. Are you willing to be that real? Are you willing to own your lies and let God grant you His name and purpose for your life?**

*Question designed for personal reflection.*

# *Your Secret Name Study Guide*

## **Lesson 4 – Believing God’s Love**

### **Enlarging Your Perspective**

- 1. Before the Fall, what career did God give man and woman? (see Genesis 1:28-29) See if you can write their job descriptions.**

*God appointed man and woman to be rulers over creation. They were placed in authority over every living thing on earth.*

*A sample description of their responsibilities would include:*

- *Be diligent in the work given to you.*
- *Reproduce and fill the earth with people.*
- *Be in command of all living things.*
- *Exercise God’s authority over all the living creatures.*

- 2. Do you think He wants to restore humankind to this position? Do you think He wants to include you in this process?**

*He absolutely does! While Adam and Eve handed authority over creation to Satan at the fall, Jesus came back to earth in the form of a man to restore God’s original intent that humankind rule over creation. Now the keys to authority are firmly in Jesus’ hands and He is calling us back to Him to find our rightful place in His kingdom. We begin to understand our place when we discover our Secret Name.*

- 3. Read Zechariah 3:1-7. There are similarities between the high priest Joshua and us. What happened with Joshua’s clothing? Who put new clothes on him? What position does God offer Joshua if he follows Him? Do you think God has an equally impressive offer for you?**

*In most versions of the Bible, Joshua’s clothing is described as filthy. However, if you look up the meaning of the word filthy you will see it defined as “soiled excrementally”. In other words, everyone who is not in Jesus Christ stands before God in clothes covered with urine and dung.*

*Joshua was unable to remove his filthy garments. God had to do it for him. However, God does far more than simply give Joshua new clothes. He also offers him a position within His kingdom (governing God’s house) if he will faithfully follow Him.*

*God has an impressive job for each one of us in his kingdom. However, in order to fully realize our position we must learn to walk through the power of God in our lives (defined by our Secret Names).*

- 4. While God desires great things for our lives, Satan stands in opposition to us. According to John 10:10, what is Satan's mission statement?**

*Satan's desire is to steal what rightfully belongs to us – our identity in Christ and the blessings that flow from that. He tries to keep us from receiving eternal life (kill). If he cannot ruin our lives completely, he tries to make our efforts at spreading the love and truth of God ineffective (destroy).*

- 5. Even though Satan stands before the throne of God accusing us, we are able to have victory over these names. According to Revelation 12:10-11, how are we to overcome Satan?**

*We overcome him through the blood of the lamb (our salvation) and the word of our testimony (our open faith and belief in the work of Christ).*

## **Believing in God**

- 1. Romans 8:35-39 and Ephesians 3:17b-19 gives us a description of the love that God has for us. Read these passages and describe the love that God has for you personally. Do you TRULY believe that love?**

*While we are made in God's image, there are certain attributes that belong to Him alone. One of them is His infinite nature. Because God is infinite, His love for us has no end. We can spend all of eternity drawing from that love and it will never run dry.*

*It is important for us to understand that because His love is infinite, there is no one else on earth loved more than we are. We are His beloved children! He is our true Father. He didn't die on the cross for our sins merely to keep us out of hell. He died to restore a deep relationship with us.*

*Do we truly believe in this love? Absolutely not! If we did, we would never worry. We would never live in fear, become frustrated or feel despair. We would rest in the understanding that we are held firmly in the hand of Almighty God and nothing can take us away from Him.*

*It is an important step to come to grips with the idea that we do not comprehend how much God loves us. Our finite minds simply cannot believe it all. Because of this, we must humbly go before God and ask Him to give us the faith that we need to deepen our belief in Him.*

2. **Read the following verses and note the theme that is running through them – Matthew 9:29, Matthew 13:58, Matthew 21:21 and Luke 18:8. What message do you think Jesus was trying to communicate here?**

*The theme of these verses is faith. For those who believed in Jesus, mighty deeds were done. The people who did not believe blocked the power of God from their lives and kept Jesus from healing them.*

3. **Do you have the kind of relationship with God that you desire? What do you think is keeping you from going deeper with God? Spend some time thinking about whose power you rely on when challenges enter your life.**

*Question designed to get individuals to reflect on the lack of faith in their own lives.*



*Belief is the fuel that powers our soul. We will never become who God created us to be until we are willing to lay down our natural desires to live through our own strength and trust completely in Him.*

## **Soul on Fire**

*“Our mistake lies not in the intensity of our desire for happiness, but in the weakness of it.”  
John Piper.*

1. **Far too often, Christians have been taught to tame our desires, as if they were by nature sinful. The truth is that our desires are often not wrong, they are simply misdirected. Read Luke 18:1-8. What do you think God is saying to us about our desires toward Him?**

*The defining characteristic of the widow in this parable was her persistence. She relentlessly pursued the judge for protection until he finally gave it to her.*

*That is exactly the kind of desire God is trying to foster in us. Just like Jacob, we must decide if God is worth fighting for. Do we really want His power, love and presence in our lives? Or are we content to face life’s struggles through our Given Names?*

2. **Have you ever noticed that a certain type scene in a movie always speaks to your heart, that no matter how hard you try you can’t help but shed a tear? Or perhaps there is a certain type of character you always identify with and root for? Spend some time writing down the characters and moments that consistently speak to your heart, understanding that they do so for a reason.**

*It is important for people to understand what speaks to their hearts and why. Have participants write down their favorite movie or novel characters. Write down their defining characteristics. Then look for any common themes that run through them.*

- 3. Every follower of Jesus Christ has received spiritual gifts. These spiritual gifts are given to you to complement who you are in Christ. If you know your gifts, write them below. Think about why these gifts bring you joy. If you do not know your gifts, seek out someone who can help you discover them.**

*If you do not know your spiritual gifts, there are a number of books written to walk you through this process. Otherwise, seek out someone from your local church to help you.*

*Spiritual gifts are given in relation to your Secret Name. You have been gifted in such a way as to live out your Secret Name.*

# *Your Secret Name Study Guide*

## **Lesson 5 – Receiving Your Name**

### **Hearing God Speak**

- 1. Read Genesis 27:20; 31:42; and 32:9. How does Jacob refer to God in these verses? Based on this observation, how would you describe Jacob’s relationship with God?**

*Prior to receiving his Secret Name, Jacob consistently referred to God as **YOUR** God, or the **God of my forefathers**. Up to this point, God was simply a tradition passed down to him by his ancestors. Jacob did not know God for himself. This is significant because it shows Jacob’s lack of faith. He did not trust God for his needs, so he relied on his own names to get him out of trouble.*

- 2. In response to Jacob’s demand for a blessing, what does God say to Him? (Genesis 32:27)**

*God asked him “What is your name?” In essence, God was asking Jacob to make a choice. Would he repent of his Given Names and choose to live through Him? Or would he continue to live in his own strength?*

- 3. Jacob’s mind was suddenly reeling. The shame of his past comes crashing down on him like a tidal wave. Remember, Jacob had been asked this question before (Genesis 27:18). Read the verse and note what was asked? How does he respond?**

*Isaac was preparing to give his blessing to Esau. While Esau was out hunting, Jacob entered the tent. Upon hearing him, Isaac asked him “Who are you, my son?”*

*Jacob then lived out the meaning of his birth name (schemer) and stated his name was Esau. Because of this lie, Jacob spent the next 20 years of his life hiding from his brother. Now, God has confronted him once again with his identity.*

- 4. What, in essence, did God ask him to do before He gave him his Secret Name? Before He gave him a vision of his future, what needed to happen?**

*God was asking Jacob to repent. Before he could live in his Secret Name, he needed to admit and reject his current name.*

- 5. On pages 139-141 of *Your Secret Name*, Kary describes a very painful time in his life. What did Kary need to come to grips with before he was ready to receive his Secret Name?**

*Kary needed to realize the truth about his Given Names. He needed to understand that the words he was writing on his body were the names he was living through. Only when Kary understood the severity and futility of what he was doing could he reject those names and open himself up to the possibility of having a new name, a Secret Name given to him by God.*

- 6. In Chapter 14 – The White Stone, Kary revealed the name and identity that God had been trying to give him his whole life. What relationship do you see between the Secret Name Kary was given and the struggles he was going through in his life?**

*All of the names that were holding Kary down were negative. They were designed to push him down and keep him from becoming the man God wanted him to be. Rather than living a life dominated by these names, God called him to be FREE. To live as one who has true freedom in Christ.*

### **Personal Application**

- 1. Where are you at in your relationship with God? Who is He to you personally? Is He just a concept? A remote being that has little day to day impact on your life? Or do you believe that God is real and alive and present in every aspect of your life? In other words, have you made God your God?**

*Before you can receive your Secret Name, you must engage God.*

- 2. Take some time and review the Given Names you wrote down during week 2. What names are you holding on to that you need to repent of? Are there any that you are afraid to let go?**

*Question designed for personal reflection.*

- 3. Before God grants you your new name, He usually expects you to reject your old ones first. Are you willing to renounce the identity that you have been living with up to now? Take some time alone with God and reject the names that He brings to your heart.**

*Question designed for personal reflection.*

- 4. Read John 5:1-9. What question did Jesus ask the sick man? Why did He ask him that question? What was the man's response?**

*Jesus asked the man "Do you wish to get well?" At first blush, this seems like a ridiculous question. The man had been ill for 38 years. He had apparently been lying by the pool for a long period of time hoping to get into the healing waters. Knowing all of this, why did Jesus ask this question?*

*The answer lies in the man's response. Keep in mind that Jesus' question required a simple yes or no answer. However, rather than answering Jesus' question, he gives an excuse. The man so identified himself with the name ILL, he no longer hoped for healing. He had resigned himself to the defeat of his Given Name.*

- 5. Many of us have become comfortable in our own names and no longer want to give them up. The same type of question that Jesus asked the man at the pool of Bethesda is being asked to you - Do you want to receive your Secret Name?**

*It is up to you to decide if you want the promise of hope that God offers, or if you would rather stay in your Given Names. While God wants to heal you, the choice to accept that healing is yours.*

- 6. If the answer to the above question is yes, go and spend time alone with God asking for it. Wait on Him. Only God knows your Secret Name and only God can give it to you. You must engage Him.**

*Question designed for personal reflection.*

- 7. Write down your Secret Name and the initial impressions it has left on you. How do you now see your life differently? It may take some time, but you will begin to understand yourself in a whole new light.**

*This is the first step in the journey toward seeing yourself as God sees you.*



*Take some time to thank God for not leaving you in your old name. Thank Him for caring enough about you to redeem you and re-establish you and your role in His kingdom.*



# *Your Secret Name Study Guide*

## **Lesson 6 – Walking In Your New Name**

### **Sinking In**

*If you have received your Secret Name from God, congratulations! You are now about to enter into a completely new chapter of your walk with the Lord. It is important to remember, however, that receiving your Secret Name is the beginning, not the end of a journey.*

*If you have not yet received your name, set these questions down and go spend time alone with the Lord. God wants all of His children to know who they are in Him. Ask Him if there is anything in your life that is keeping you from receiving your name. Wait on His answer. Trust in Him. Do not give up or lose heart. Stay engaged in the process and believe in His love.*

- 1. Jacob had just received his Secret Name Israel – one who struggles with God and man and overcomes, a prince of God. After going through this amazing experience, note what Jacob said about it to his brother Esau in Genesis 33:1-17.**

*Jacob made absolutely no mention of it to Esau.*

- 2. Why do you think Jacob responded in that way? Surely the news of receiving his Secret Name would have been worthy of sharing?**

*Sometimes the experience of receiving your Secret Name can seem a bit much. It is humbling to realize how highly God thinks of you. Because of this, we sometimes prefer to go back to our Given Names. They are smaller and easier to live up to.*

*However, a mighty and glorious God expects wonderful things to come out of those whom He created in His own image.*

- 3. In Genesis 35, we read that God appeared to Jacob again. What does God say to him in verse 10? Why do you think it was necessary for God to remind Jacob of who he really was? What was he lacking?**

*God reminds him of his new name. Despite being given a new identity by God, Jacob was stilling living according to his old name. So God reminds him who he really is. The thing missing from Jacob's life was belief. He did not trust God enough to live in his Secret Name.*

*We tend to behave the same way. Because we don't believe God truly loves us, we don't trust Him. Because we don't trust Him, we don't walk in our new names. We go back to the Given Names we believe in.*

## Personal Application

- 1. Frequently, when people receive their Secret Names, they are overwhelmed. Suddenly people realize that not only are they known by God, but God wants to do great things through their lives (what would you expect from a great God, after all?). This realization can cause some people to become apprehensive. How are you adapting to your new name so far?**

*At this point, many people respond by living in fear of their Secret Name. It is critical to replace fear with faith.*

## Living Big Before God

- 1. I Samuel 17 recounts the story of David and Goliath. Take a few moments and read over the story. Verses 41-44 tell of Goliath's initial meeting with David. In what names was Goliath approaching David?**

*Goliath was a man who fought all of his battles in the flesh. He approached David with DISDAIN, PRIDE, PHYSICAL STRENGTH and ARROGANCE.*

- 2. Now read verse 45. In whose name did David fight Goliath? What difference did it make? Whose hand was really guiding the stone?**

*While David had his sling and five smooth stones, in verse 45 we read of his true strength. David came to Goliath in the **name** of the LORD of hosts. David realized his true power came not from his physical strength or ability to sling a stone. It came through the power of God's name flowing through him.*

*Because of David's great faith, God's hand was on him and He guided the stone to the exact spot it needed to go. What a difference it makes when we bring the name of God into our challenges!*

## Personal Application

- 1. Spend some time thinking about the "giants" you are currently facing in your life. What difference would it make if you were willing to face them through the power of God flowing through your new name? Are you willing to live this way?**

*The name of God that helped deliver David from Goliath is still available to us today. We have the same opportunity to live in faith through our Secret Name. When we do this consistently, our lives will take on a new trajectory - a direction that is driven by the power of Almighty God rather than ourselves.*

## Standing Against Opposition

- 1. The very first time Simon met Jesus, he received his Secret Name - Peter (John 1:42). However, it took him years to effectively live in it. In Luke 22:31-34, Jesus warns Peter that Satan has asked to sift him like wheat. What difference would it have made if Peter, when faced with this temptation, walked in his Secret Name?**

*If he faced this challenge in his Secret Name - Peter (the Rock) instead of his birth name, Simon, he would have not fallen. Rather, he would have stood firm and been unmoved by fear. Sadly, he was not yet confidently living in light of his Secret Name so he reverted to his old ways. If he had brought God's power into the situation, his victory over this challenge would have been certain.*

## Personal Application

- 1. You are now more dangerous to Satan than at any prior point in your life. You have taken a step forward in understanding who you are in Christ and you are beginning to realize the power of God available to you. It is common after people receive their Secret Names for them to realize new avenues of ministry that they are being called to. In what ways do you sense God tugging at your heart? How do you think He wants you to walk in your new name to impact the lives of others?**

*When we receive our Secret Names, it is common for God to place a new calling on our life. Armed with the knowledge of who we really are, we are called to go out and live the truth of our name in the world around us.*

*Receiving your Secret Name is not just an interesting exercise. It is the doorway into the next chapter of your life. It is hoped that once you understand who you truly are, you will use the power of God to impact those around you. The calling on your life will likely be as unique as you are. However, rest assured that you will be ideally suited for whatever God has prepared for you. "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10 NASB*