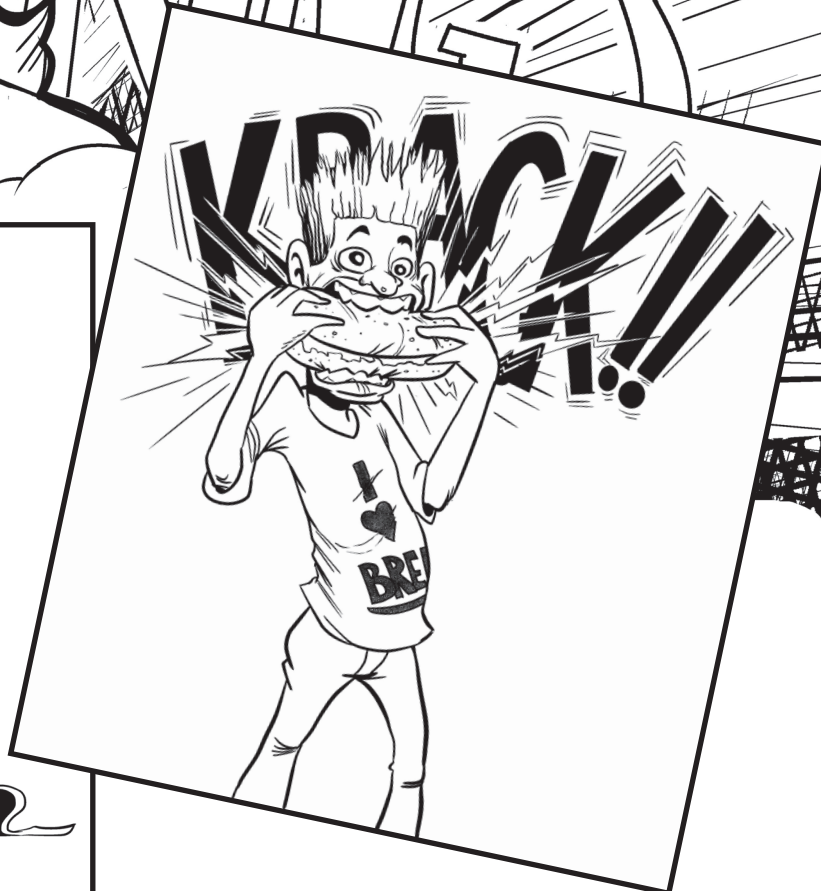
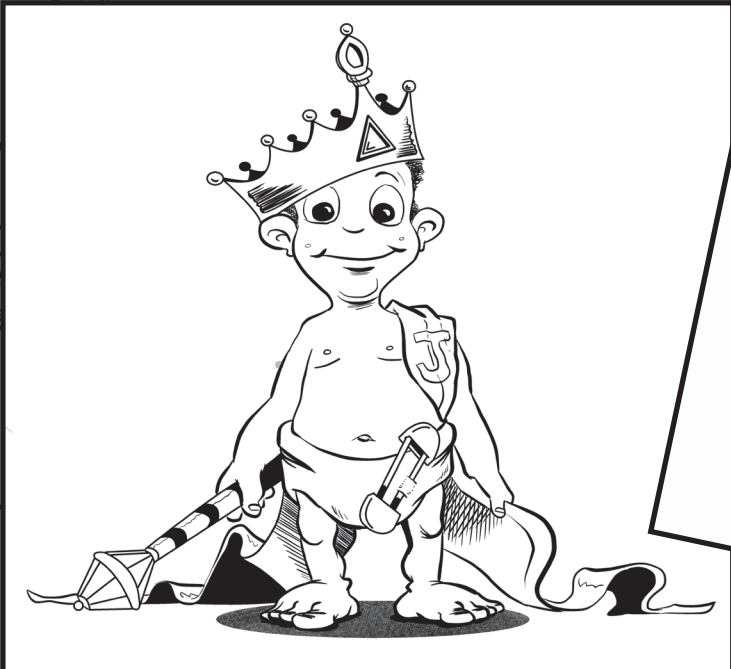


The Names of Jesus

Part 1

WAKING UP

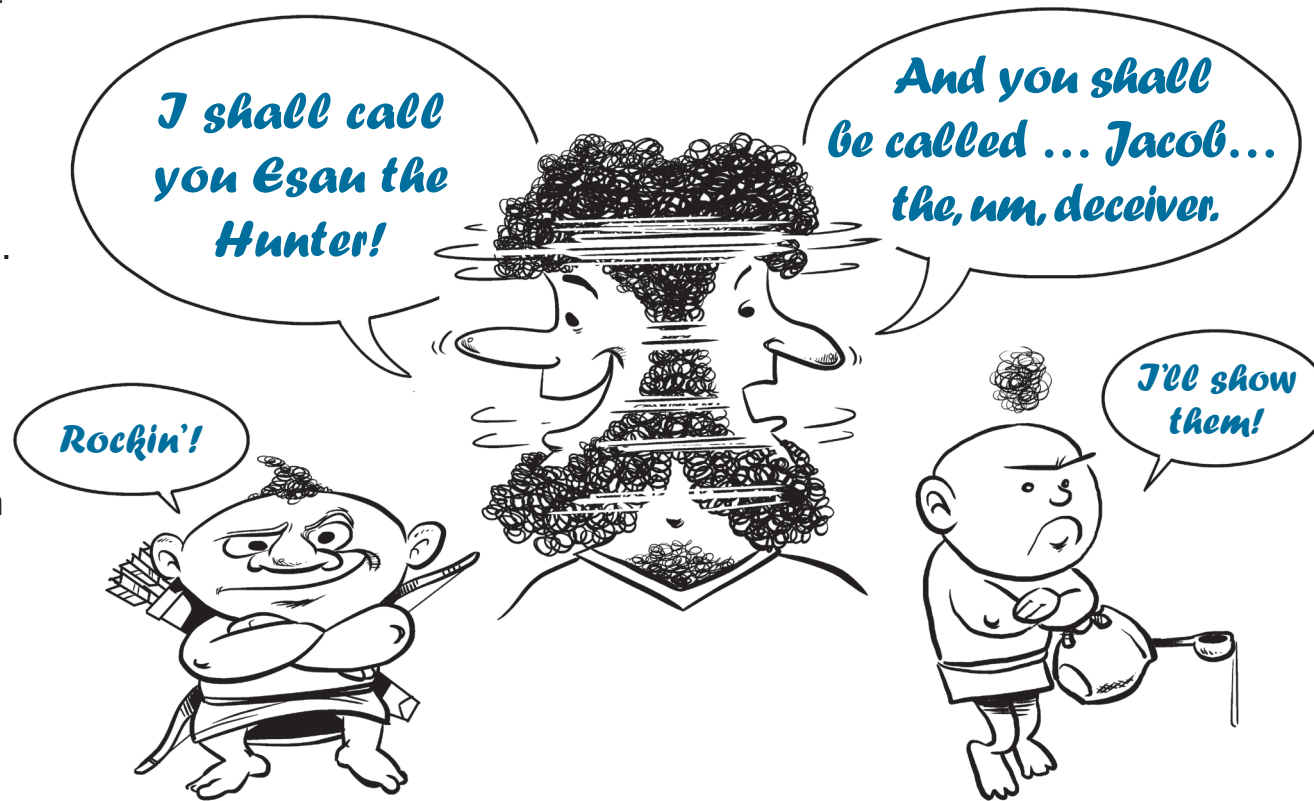


Did you know that there are over 100 names or titles for Jesus in the Bible? The many names and titles of Jesus serve a purpose—they tell us about His character, about who He is, and what He does for us. They help us understand Him, and help us learn how to interact with Jesus in deeper ways.

A “name” is defined as “a word or a combination of words by which a person, place, or thing, a body or class, or any object of thought is designated, called, or known.”

(<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/name>)

In Bible times, people would give their babies names based on their appearance or on some other aspect of their nature. After God made a covenant with Abram, God changed Abram’s name to “Abraham.” Abraham means “father of a multitude”—because God promised Abraham that he would have as many offspring as the stars in the sky.



Your name might also hold a meaning—it may signify your parents’ hopes and dreams for you, or something that you mean to them. This is also what God did when naming His Son. “Jesus” is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew name “Joshua.” It means that “salvation is of Jehovah [God].”

Sometimes we call each other nicknames as terms of endearment, or when describing an aspect of someone's character or personality. For example, your parents might call you "champ" or "sweetheart" or "sunshine."

Throughout the Bible, great men of God have called Jesus many things based on their personal discoveries of His character. Some names of Jesus are based on the many statements God has made about who He is, and promises that Jesus has given about who He is. For example, Jesus told His disciples that He was our "good shepherd," because of the way that He lovingly cares and watches over us.





Some names of Jesus as listed in the Bible are “titles.” A dictionary defines “title” as “an appellation¹ of dignity, honor, distinction, or preeminence attached to a person or family by virtue of rank, office, precedent, privilege, attainment, or lands.”² For example, the following forms of address are all titles: Sir, Lord, Your Majesty, Reverend, Doctor, Mr. President, Your Honor, Professor, etc.

¹an identifying name or title

²<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/title>



You can call someone by their title as a form of respect, but their title is not necessarily their personal name. Jesus has many titles, because He is many things to us—He is our Father, our High Priest, our Intercessor, the Messiah, and so much more.

In this series we will look at a few of the names of Jesus, and you can continue these studies of Jesus' name on your own.

Name: Christ

Reference: Matthew 1:16; Luke 9:20
“...and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.” (NIV)

“But what about you?” he asked.
“Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “The Christ of God.”” (NIV)

The New Testament was written in Greek, so “Christ” comes from the Greek word *christos*, which means “anointed.” In Old Testament days, God would choose and proclaim a king of Israel by having one of His prophets “anoint” His chosen one with oil. So when we say “Christ Jesus” or “Jesus Christ,” we are recognizing God’s anointing of kingship that He gave to His Son.

The Old Testament was written in Hebrew, and their word for “anointed” was “Messiah.” This word was occasionally used in the New Testament as well. For example, in the New Living Translation of the Bible, Luke 9:20 reads, “Then he asked them, ‘But who do you say I am?’ Peter replied, ‘You are the Messiah sent from God!’”

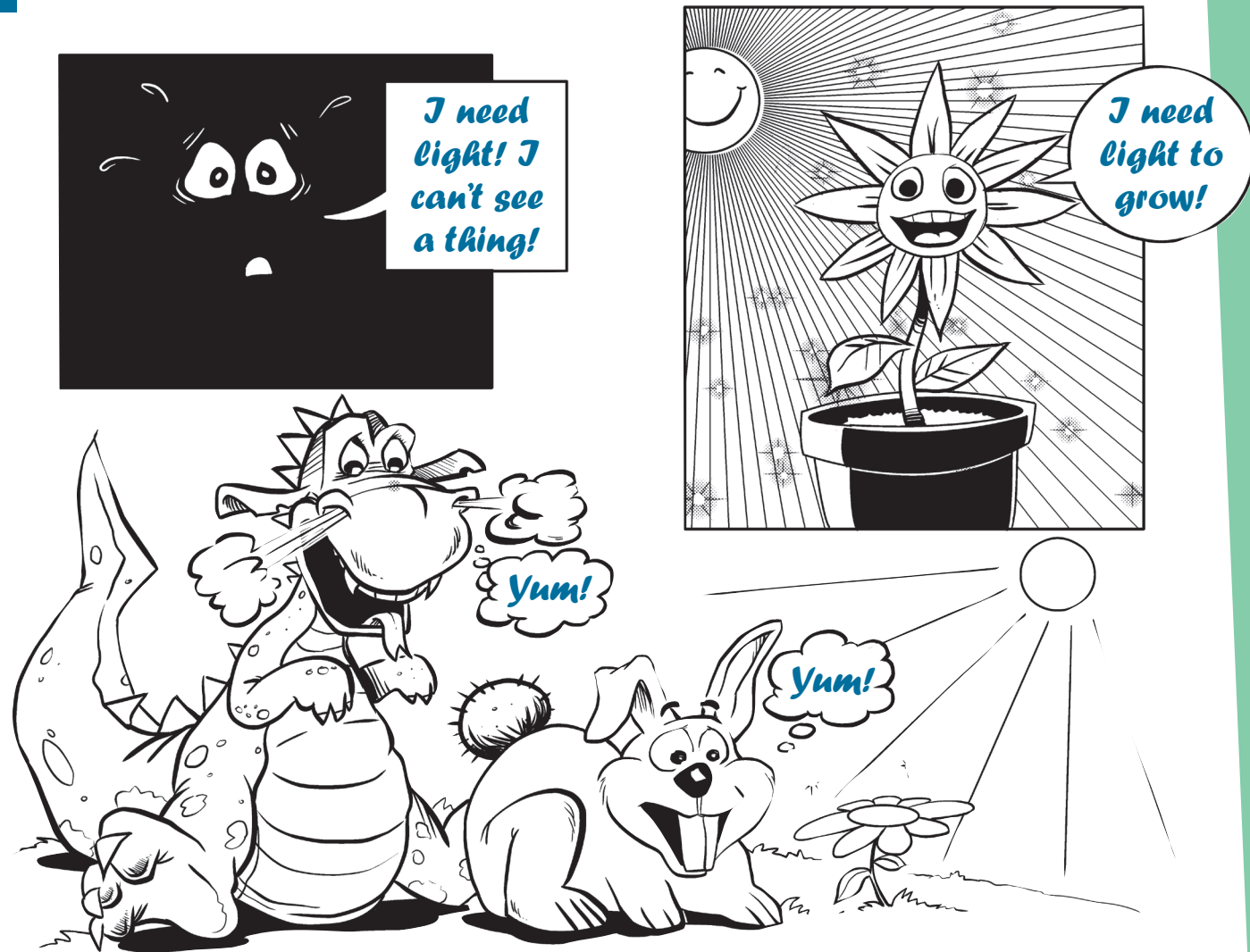


Name: Light of the World

Reference: John 8:12

"Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'" (ESV)

Light is one of the most essential things in human existence. Aside from it being beneficial for us in being able to see the world around us, the sun provides energy to all life on Earth through its light and heat—vegetation uses sunlight to grow (a process known as photosynthesis); many animals and most humans eat vegetation in the form of fruit, plants, and vegetables, as part of their diet; and animals in the wild that are carnivorous by nature may feed on smaller animals that subsist on vegetation. Jesus is as necessary to our spiritual life as the sun is to the earth's physical life.



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