

A note on the Scripture: the verse summaries in this guide are plain-English paraphrases, not quotations from a particular Bible translation. Read each passage in your preferred Bible for its full wording and context.

The Names of God Explained: A Printable Guide

A gentle guide to ten biblical names and titles, and the ways they invite us to know God more deeply.

A welcoming place to begin

Names for God in Scripture help us notice different aspects of God's character and relationship with people. Read each reference in context, take your time with the reflection, and bring your questions with you. Christians use different translations and traditions, so some explanations and pronunciations vary.

Names 1–3

Elohim

LANGUAGE Hebrew
MEANING God. Elohim is a Hebrew word used for God; in Genesis 1:1 it appears with a singular verb.

READ Genesis 1:1
REFLECT What does the creation story help you notice about God's power and care?

Yahweh

LANGUAGE Hebrew
MEANING The personal divine name of Israel's God. Many English Bibles render it as LORD; its ancient pronunciation is not certain.

READ Exodus 3:15
REFLECT What might it mean to know God by name in a moment of uncertainty?

Adonai

LANGUAGE Hebrew
MEANING Lord or master, a title expressing honour and reverence.

READ Psalm 8:1
REFLECT How does honouring God shape the way you approach prayer?

Names 4–6

Power, majesty and provision

El Shaddai

LANGUAGE Hebrew
MEANING Traditionally translated as God Almighty; the origin of the second element is discussed by scholars.

READ Genesis 17:1
REFLECT Where might you need to trust God's strength and faithfulness?

El Elyon

LANGUAGE Hebrew
MEANING God Most High, a title highlighting God's supreme place and authority.

READ Genesis 14:18-20
REFLECT How does this title shape your view of God's place in the world?

Jehovah Jireh

LANGUAGE Hebrew expression, traditionally rendered in English as Jehovah Jireh
MEANING Commonly understood as The LORD will provide, in the setting of Genesis 22.

READ Genesis 22:14
REFLECT When have you experienced help or provision, and what did it mean to you?

About the Jehovah forms: these are traditional English renderings of Hebrew expressions based on YHWH, often represented in English Bibles as LORD. Jehovah is a conventional English form, not an original vocalisation directly established from ancient Hebrew. The precise history, pronunciation and interpretation of these expressions can be discussed differently across scholarship and Christian traditions.

Names 7–10

Healing, peace, presence and belonging

Jehovah Rapha

LANGUAGE Hebrew expression, traditionally rendered in English as Jehovah Rapha
MEANING Commonly rendered as The LORD who heals, in a passage about healing and obedience.

READ Exodus 15:26
REFLECT What kind of healing or restoration are you hoping for today?

Jehovah Shalom

LANGUAGE Hebrew expression, traditionally rendered in English as Jehovah Shalom
MEANING The LORD is peace, a title Gideon used as he responded to God's reassurance.

READ Judges 6:24
REFLECT What could it look like to seek God's peace amid a challenge?

Immanuel

LANGUAGE Hebrew
MEANING God is with us. Matthew applies this name to Jesus in its account of his birth.

READ Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23
REFLECT Where would a reminder of God's presence bring you comfort?

Abba

LANGUAGE Aramaic
MEANING Father, an intimate form of address expressing trust and closeness.

READ Mark 14:36
REFLECT What would it mean for you to speak to God with honest trust?

A final note: English spellings and pronunciation conventions vary. Scholars and Christian traditions do not always agree on every detail, so these brief meanings are starting points for reading the passages in context.

A short prayer

God of wisdom, peace and compassion, help us grow in understanding as we read Scripture. Meet us with your presence, guide our questions, and teach us to live with trust and love. Amen.
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