

*Praise God for His Goodness and Love!*



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Did you know that names often have meanings? For example, the name *William* means “determined protector.” The name *Zachary* means “remembered by God.” Names sometimes tell us something about what a person is like or what their parents hope they will become. Does your name have a meaning? Ask your Dad and Mom. If they don't know, have them look it up on the internet.

God has many names; each one tells us something important about him. You might be surprised to know God has a personal name. God's Hebrew name in the Old Testament is Yahweh. Our English Bibles usually translate Yahweh as “LORD,” using all capital letters. What does God's name tell us about who he is and what he's like?

In Psalm 103:8, God tells us what his name means. This verse is a direct quote of what God says about himself when he gave the 10 commandments to Moses in Exodus 34:1-6 (why don't you look it up and read what it says). God's name means he is **merciful** (he doesn't give us the punishment we deserve) and **gracious** (he gives forgiveness we don't deserve). He's **slow to anger** (patient) and **abounding in steadfast love** (his love is generous and permanent).

This verse reminds us God is good, others tell us he is powerful. We should praise God that he is both! If God were good but weak, he couldn't do anything to help us. If he were evil but powerful, we would live in fear of him. But knowing God is both good and powerful should cause us to love him and trust him with our lives!