



Known by Name

A NEWSTORY CHURCH SERIES

Known By Name

pt I, Elohim: The Strong Creator God

Icebreaker: Share a nickname you had from childhood and the story behind it.

- 1) Pastor Tom mentioned how some companies spend billions to make their name and products easily recognizable. Why do you suppose that is the case? And what principles about *name recognition* (and its associated qualities) do you think overlap with a series focused on the over 100 names and titles of God? In other words: *How could a series on the names of God be relevant?*
- 2) "Elohim" appears 35 times in the first 34 verses of the bible. What does this repetition tell us about the importance of understanding God as Creator? How might this understanding deepen your own worship of God? How does it impact your life?
- 3) In the original Hebrew text, Genesis 1:1 introduces God as Elohim, the Strong Creator. How does understanding God as a creator who works "ex nihilo" (out of nothing) change the way you see Him working in your life today? Reflect also on Romans 4:17: "He calls into existence the things that do not exist."
- 4) Elohim brought order to chaos during creation (Genesis 1). What areas of your life feel chaotic right now, and how can you invite God to bring order and peace?
OR what is an area of your life that feels like "nothing" right now, and how might Elohim's creative power bring hope or transformation? In addition to Genesis 1, reflect on Psalm 147:4-5, 1 Corinthians 14:33 and Hebrews 11:3.
- 5) Elohim knows both the number of stars in all the billions of galaxies and the number of hairs on your head. How does this juxtaposition of cosmic and cellular impact your understanding of God's character? Consider Psalm 147:4-5 alongside Luke 12:7.
- 6) Genesis 1:26 says we are made in God's image. How can we reflect Elohim's creativity in our daily lives? Are there dreams or projects you've abandoned that you feel God is calling you to revisit?
- 7) The sermon challenges us to notice creation in our daily lives. Think through your past week, what small moments of creativity or beauty or creation (a meal being cooked, walking the dog, listening to music, brewing the coffee) remind you of Elohim's power and presence? How might gratitude (and awe) for these moments deepen your faith? Consider this final quote from Albert Einstein and our simple prayer afterwards: "He who can no longer pause to wonder and stand rapt in awe is as good as dead; his eyes are closed."

*Heavenly Father, Elohim, help us to remain in awe of you.
Thank you for not only considering us but also loving us through your Son.
In His name we pray, amen.*