Date: 12/9/17

Title: Call His Name Jesus

Theme: Jesus came to save us from our sins.

Object: None

Text: Matthew 1:21 (NKJV) “And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

Do you know that Jesus had only one name? How many names do you have?

Most people have three names: a first name, a middle name, and a last name.

Who can tell me all three of their names?

Do you like your names? Most people like their names, but some people don’t.

I have a sister who didn’t like her name: Her name was Gladys McNulty. She didn’t like “Gladys.”

So instead of using her first name, she used her middle name, Jean.

She wanted everybody to call her Jean McNulty instead of Gladys McNulty.

Lots of people have a nickname. A nickname is usually a shorter version of your real name.

Who can tell me what their nickname is?

Did you know that names also have meanings?

You can look up names in a book or on the internet to see what they mean.

The name Adam means “man.” The name Abel means “breathing.” The name Samuel means “able to hear God.” The name Daniel means “the Lord is my judge. The name Isaiah means “God delivers.” And the name John means “God is merciful.”

Maybe your name has a meaning too. The name Isabella means “Promise of God.” The name Eliana means “My Lord responded.” The name Elias means “Yahweh is my God.”

Do your pets have names? How about your baby dolls? If you have a favorite baby doll, you want to give it a nice name.

When parents realize they’re going to have a baby, they usually put a lot of thought into what to name their new child.

They want everybody to like the name they give their baby, and they want their baby to like their name too.

But when Jesus was born, Joseph and Mary didn’t get to pick his name.

The angel Gabriel told Joseph exactly what his name should be: It’s found in the verse we read from the Bible [read again].

Now the interesting thing is that Joseph and Mary didn’t actually name Him “Jesus” because they didn’t speak English. They spoke Hebrew and Aramaic.

Jesus is the name we get when we translate His Hebrew name into Greek and then translate that name into English.

So in Hebrew, they named Him Yeshua, which is the Hebrew name for Jesus.

If we translate that name into English, it becomes Joshua in English.

The name Yeshua, in Hebrew, means “salvation.”

That’s why the angel told Joseph to be sure to name Jesus, Yeshua in Hebrew, because His name meant “salvation” and, the angel said, “he would save his people from their sins.”

Did you get that? Jesus’ name means salvation because he came to save us from our sins.

And that’s what we celebrate at Christmas time.

Not just that a beautiful little baby was born in Bethlehem.

But a Savior was born who can save us from our sins, and give us eternal life instead of eternal death.

Will you trust Jesus today to save you from your sins?