

	<p>God revealed himself to Abraham as El Shaddi, God Almighty, and told him of his everlasting covenant he was establishing with him and with his descendants.</p> <p>Genesis 15: 5 -7 – God blessed Abraham and promised to give him as many descendants as there are stars in the sky.</p> <p>Genesis 21:1-8 – God keeps his promise and Sarah has a baby.</p> <p>Psalms 91: 1-2, 14 – God promises to watch over His people.</p> <p>Hebrews 12: 8-12 – recognition of God’s promises in the OT retold and remembered in the NT.</p>
4	<p>Yahweh - The Lord, a sacred personal name for Israel’s God. The God who saved His people from sin and slavery.</p> <p>Exodus 3: 12-15</p> <p>Psalms 103- 1-13</p> <p>Proverbs 18:10. – The name of the Lord is a strong tower.</p>

Week 1 – Names of God			
Elohim – Creator God.			
Gather	Engage	Respond	Send
<p>Light the candle <i>Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made.</i></p> <p><i>Response: we will rejoice and be glad in it.</i></p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32TxpiGTOio Creation animation – just images. You may want to keep the sound down, or play some reflective music instead.</p>	<p>Are names important? Why do we have names? Does anyone know what their name means? Have some examples to discuss together. Do these meanings describe your character?</p> <p>I wonder what names you would give to describe God? Discuss the children’s suggestions together.</p> <p>Over the next few weeks we are going to be exploring some of the names the Israelites used to describe God in the Old Testament. As we explore them we will learn more about the nature of God.</p> <p>This week’s name for God is Elohim. (e-lo-HEEM)</p> <p>The word Elohim is the first name of God given in the Old Testament: “In the beginning, God (Elohim) created the heavens and the earth” (Gen. 1:1).</p> <p>I wonder why God was described as a creator? What did he create?</p> <p>Sing: Creator God by Nick and Becky Drake. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7uDwnqynJD4</p> <p>Explore the creation story- what else did God create? Genesis 1: 1- 25. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9MPef0FT7oY – Creation story video.</p>	<p>Listen and reflect to all the ways the writer describes God in this song called Elohim. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ssrGqyQDCZl (Hillsong Elohim)</p> <p>Be still and quiet: I wonder which of these names means most to you? I wonder which name you would use to describe God?</p> <p>Pray together: Thank you God for the lives you created. Thank you for the planet we play on, the hot burning sun that warms our faces, for the cool rain that waters the plants and for the moon that reminds us that you are still there in the night. Amen.</p> <p>Thank you God for your beautiful world, for the wonderful colours and amazing animals. We thank you Elohim that you created all of this for us to enjoy. Help us to take care of your world and love it as much as you do. Amen.</p>	<p><i>May God’s blessing surround you each day. Amen</i></p> <p>I wonder what you can do to take care of the world God created?</p> <p>As you go outside today or this week look closely at creation. Look at something you</p>

	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHu352QwXXM Creation story animation (Link to UC Big frieze and Creation or God units)</p> <p>Explore Genesis 1: 26-27 – God created humans in his own images. Look at the person next to you, what is similar with both of you? What things are not the same? Being different is ok, being different is good, it would be boring if we were all the same!</p> <p>God created you to be as you are. He doesn't make mistakes. When God created the world and the humans in it he said that it was good. You are good and perfect. Isn't God amazing that he made us all to be different. Even identical twins have differences. God is a creative God.</p> <p>Link to Psalm 139 13-14 <i>For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful.</i></p> <p>How does it make you feel when God says he made you perfectly and in his image? It says you are wonderfully made – WOW!</p> <p>Sing: Big family of God by Nick and Becky Drake. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEvJzOxm6zs https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1yu1L6LZCo – Lovely Jubbly by Doug Horley</p>	<p>In your head, think quietly about your favourite place or animal. Think about all the different things God created to make that place or animal different to other creatures. Thank God in the quiet for all the amazing things he has created.</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVnKj0fbMi U Listen to this song by Philippa Hanna called I am amazing. What makes you amazing? I wonder how this song makes you feel? Thank God for your family and those that love you. Thank you God for making you just as you are. Thank you God that I am amazing! Amen.</p>	<p>haven't looked at before and reflect on how amazing it is.</p> <p>I wonder what you can do today to tell others they are amazing?</p>
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Week 2 – Names of God
El Roi – The God who sees me.

Gather	Engage	Respond	Send
<p>Light the candle <i>Leader: The Lord be with you.</i></p> <p><i>Response: and also with you.</i></p>	<p>Recap the name of God from last week, Elohim. Did anyone look closely at Creation? What did you see or notice? Discuss together.</p> <p>Introduce the name for this week. El Roi (EL raw-EE) In the OT there were many times where God’s people went through difficult and challenging times, but they were reassured knowing that God was watching over them and would bless their lives and families. Why do you think He is watching over you? He watches over you because He loves you, like a parent who watches over their children. How does it make you feel knowing that God is watching over you? <i>She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: “You are the God who sees me,” for she said, “I have now seen the One who sees me.”</i> <i>Genesis 16:13</i></p> <p>Psalm 121: 3-8 <i>He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber; ⁴indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵The LORD watches over you— the LORD is your shade at your right hand; ⁶the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. ⁷The LORD will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life; ⁸the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.</i></p> <p>Discuss these verses together. Which verse speaks to you the most? How has the writer described how God will watch over his people? What images come into your mind? Worship in the classroom: Put the children into groups and ask them to recreate two of the lines each and then freeze frame them. Take pictures to put in your reflection/prayer area.</p>	<p>Reflection: Show the children the words below and allow them to reflect on them quietly. I wonder how it makes them feel knowing that God watches over them?</p> <p><i>His Eye Is on the Sparrow</i> by Civilla Martin</p> <p><i>“Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come? Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home? When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is he; His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.”</i></p> <p>These words have formed many gospel songs as it talks about how if God is watching and caring for the sparrows of course he will be watching over me.</p> <p>Prayer: Thank you God that you are always watching over me. Thank you that you know what is best for me, so help me to trust you and your plan for me life. Amen.</p> <p>The God who sees everything by Andrew Thompson. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tKVVvPPADwA</p> <p>Listen quietly to some of this song and reflect on the words and consider what it is like to have God watching over you at all times.</p>	<p>I wonder what you have learnt about God this week?</p>



Explore these verses from Psalm 33.
Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people he chose for his inheritance.
¹³ From heaven the LORD looks down
and sees all mankind;
¹⁴ from his dwelling place he watches
all who live on earth—
¹⁵ he who forms the hearts of all,
who considers everything they do.

Sing: Wonderful Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qZWK8ZE2Pk>

God is watching over you.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rs02V1hcpQc>

'You are the God who sees everything,
You never let go of me.'

Week 3 – Names of God			
El Shaddi – God Almighty: For whom nothing is impossible			
Gather	Engage	Respond	Send
<p>This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.</p> <p>Listen to this song, maybe without the images. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DuXB1a3NBCw</p>	<p>Start with an impossible task: Have an image on the screen of the night sky which is full of stars. Ask some volunteers to come and count them all. When they begin to struggle – why can't you count them? Do you keep losing count or are there just too many?</p> <p>This week's name of God is El Shaddi, (EL shad-DAI) which means God Almighty- for whom nothing is impossible.</p> <p>I wonder what things you might think are impossible? I wonder if you can think of any stories in the Bible where God did the impossible.</p> <p>This week we are going to hear about a story where El Shaddi helped one of his followers, Abraham.</p> <p>Tell the story of God's promises to Abraham. At this point in the story Abraham and his wife Sarah, were very old and didn't have any children yet. You will have as many descendants as there are stars in the sky. God says, didn't I provide and keep my promise when you moved from your home and followed me, so I won't let you down this time.</p> <p>Genesis 15: 5 -7 ⁵ Then he took him outside and said, "Look at the sky. Count the stars. Can you do it? Count your descendants! You're going to have a big family, Abram!" ⁶ And he believed! Believed GOD! God declared him "Set-Right-with-God." ⁷ GOD continued, "I'm the same GOD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldees and gave you this land to own."</p> <p>How do you think this promise made Abraham and Sarah feel, knowing they were very old and didn't have any children? What do you think they did? (Had to trust God)</p> <p>Genesis 21:1-8 So God had promised Sarah that she would have a child. Use this video to help you tell the story of what happened next. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NdqrwGJYePQ What did God do that was impossible? How did Abraham and Sarah respond to God when he fulfilled His promise?</p>	<p>Use an image of Abraham looking up at the stars. I wonder how Abraham felt when God made this promise to Him? I wonder how you feel when you look up at the stars? Give thanks to God for all He has created and done for His people.</p> <p>If the classroom – give each child a star. On the back get them to write down something they think is impossible, but would like God's help with. Hang or stick them to the ceiling. Encourage the children to look at them and remember God's promise to Abraham.</p>	<p>Eternal God, our beginning and our end, accompany us in this day's journey. Dawn on our darkness, open our eyes to praise you for your creation and to see the work you set before us today. Take us and use us to bring to others the new life you give in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen</p> <p>Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen</p>

Explore Hebrews 12: 8-12

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹ By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. ¹² And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

This passage is written in the New Testament, thousands of years after Abraham lived. The passage talks a lot about faith – I wonder what faith is and why Abraham and his family trusted God?

Reflect on the stories you have heard this week – what did God do that seemed impossible to us humans?

Sing:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7nuzbWEiaeY> – God can do anything.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5D9M8ZpX8o> – Nothings to big big big for His power. Doug Horley.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yopo6DvV9Z8> – with actions!

Week 4 – Names of God			
Yahweh – The Lord			
Gather	Engage	Respond	Send
<p>The Lord is with us Let us praise his name together</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGJIZvl8PJM Quiet music to listen to when coming into worship. Lou Fellingham – I will say.</p>	<p>How do you send messages to people? What about really important messages? How does your Mum or Dad call you for dinner?</p> <p>God had a really important message to give Moses; does anyone know how he got the attention of Moses? Moses was living in Midian as a shepherd after running away from Egypt. He was caring for his sheep on the mountainside when he heard a noise. These video clips show the scene from the Bible brilliantly. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LZpYMr-Ed0Q or/ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ds9y3IJGig</p> <p>How did God speak to Moses? What did God call himself? <i>God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you. Exodus 3:14</i></p> <p>Our name for God this week is Yahweh, which means Lord.</p> <p>How did Moses respond to God? Did he argue with Him or say no? Was he frightened? What did God promise Moses? Did God keep His promises? How? I wonder how Moses felt then.</p> <p>Explore Psalm 103:1-13. Display the text on the screen. Read the Psalm out loud. With the person sitting next to you, I want you to find 3 different ways Yahweh or Lord is described. Discuss all the different descriptions together. Discuss what they mean and illustrate if necessary. Ask children to come up and hold a piece of card with one of the descriptions on. Which characteristic is the most important? Why? Which one is the most important to you?</p>	<p>God said to Moses, "I will be with you. I wonder if this helped Moses feel less frightened?</p> <p>God makes this promise to us. <i>Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Deuteronomy 31:6</i></p> <p><i>I wonder how hearing these words makes you feel? Sit quietly and thank God and those who care for you for being by your side all the time and taking care of you.</i></p> <p>Pray – tsp prayer. Encourage the children to think of a thank you prayer, sorry prayer and a please prayer. Get them to say them in their head, with just a prompt as to when you want them to think of the next sentence.</p> <p>Pray together – Ask children to come say a pray using one of the descriptions of Yahweh. e.g. Thank you God that you heal diseases. I thank you for forgiving the bad things I have done. Thank you God that you don't get angry. Amen.</p>	<p>I wonder what you might do to be brave this week like Moses?</p> <p>I wonder what you have learnt about God this week?</p> <p>We go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory. Amen</p>

	<p>Where is the strongest and safest place you know? Have you visited a really strong/huge building? What was it like?</p> <p>Show this image of a lighthouse out at sea. Is it strong? How do you know? What must it be built of? Why does it need to be built well and of a strong material? Do you think the lighthouse keeper feels safe inside it?</p> <p>Explore Proverbs 18:10. <i>The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and they are safe.</i></p> <p>Use an image like this one to help explain and visualise what this proverb might mean.</p> <p>Thinking about everything we have looked so far, why do you think the Bible describes the name Yahweh as a strong tower? What must Yahweh be like? Ponder, reflect and discuss this together.</p> <p>Sing: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bYrcrP1ysjw – Blessed be the name of the Lord. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFBZJGSgyVQ – My Lighthouse by Rend Collective https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGbSK5zRTtA – All through History by Nick and Becky Drake https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCC9fGnHH4I – Brave by Saddleback Kids</p>	<p>If in the classroom – Give each child a piece of paper and allow them to draw or write how they would describe God after learning about Him this term.</p> <p>Show the image of the Lighthouse out in the sea again. Where are you in this picture? Are you safe inside?</p> <p>Dear God, Thank you that wherever we are and whatever we've done you are there and you care. Thank you that you promise to keep us safe and always watch over us. Amen.</p>	
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Reflection / Prayer area ideas:

It would be a great idea to create a central display of all of the names, stories, Bible verses and images from each of the weeks to allow children to continue reflecting on the different names and how they help to describe God.