



IT'S PERSONAL

Do you know...?

Session 1: Do You Know My Name?

September 22-28, 2019

Hang Out (30 Minutes)

1. Ice Breakers: Remember, everyone has the right to pass on any question.
 - What is your full name? What is the meaning of your name?
 - Is there a story behind why you were given your name?
 - What have you liked and disliked about your name?
2. Go through the Life Group Agreement and plans for your next meetings.

Watch The Video (24 Minutes)

Watch the video if necessary. If everyone viewed the sermon before the meeting, add this time to your discussion.

Discuss (30 Minutes)

It's okay if you don't get to every question. Leaders, guide the group to the questions you think will be most helpful.

1. Why are our names so important to us?
2. Share a good memory of when someone remembered your name or a bad memory of when someone forgot your name.
3. Help each other to look up Luke 19:1-10. After everyone has found the passage, have someone read it.
 - What do you learn about the character, life experience, and emotions of Zacchaeus before he met Jesus? *It is ok to speculate on this one.*
 - This account does not report how it is that Jesus knew Zacchaeus' name. What is your guess as to how Jesus knew his name?
 - How do you think Jesus calling Zacchaeus by name contributed to what happened through the rest of that day?

4. Help each other to look up Isaiah 43:1-2. After everyone has found the passage, have someone read it.
 - Describe your reaction to hearing the Lord say to you, "I have called you by name, you are mine."
 - How does the first part of verse 1 and verse 2 help you to better understand the impact of the Lord calling you by name?
5. Revelation 3:5 indicates that the names of followers of Jesus are written in "the book of life". How does this report help you to better understand the significance of God knowing your name?
6. Share any tips you use to remember people's names. What tips for remembering names that Pastor Steve shared did you find helpful?
7. Share anything that you found helpful or encouraging from Sunday's sermon or share any concluding thoughts you have about the importance of learning a person's name.
8. From the sermon this week or this study, what is a next step you might take to get better at calling people by name?

SUMMARY

We live in a time where a growing percentage of people feel invisible and ignored. Some people suffer because they do not feel noticed or even seen. Depression, anxiety, and loneliness are increasing, especially among students and young adults. People need to feel noticed and that someone sees them and knows them personally. No one needs to be known by everyone, but everyone needs someone who knows them. Everyone needs a few people with whom *it's personal*. As followers of Jesus we live in the assurance that, through Jesus, God has made it personal with each of us. Because of this, we can be the best chance someone has to really feeling known. In Jesus' encounter with Zacchaeus we have a great example of what it looks like to make it personal. Jesus gives us a simple model on how he makes it personal with us and how we can make it personal with others. Remembering someone's name, pronouncing it correctly, and using it in a personal way is an important first step in being personal. With a little effort, we can get better at remembering names.

Pray (5 Minutes)

Think of someone you want to pray for by name, asking God to meet a specific hope or hurt in that person's life. To close in prayer, go around the circle and have each person complete this sentence:

"God, I pray for name of person and that you, O God, will state the prayer request you have for that person. In your name I pray. Amen."

The life group host begin and end the time of prayer and can use this prayer if desired: **"Gracious God, you know us by name and you call us by name to pray for others. Hear us now as we name before you these people."** Have the prayer go around the circle with each person who wishes to pray speaking their prayer out loud. After the prayer has moved back to the leader, the leader can conclude with his/her prayer for someone and then say, **"In the name of Jesus, hear our prayers. Amen."**

If you have picked up this lesson guide to do with a few friends or family members on your own, we'd love to know about it. Email or text Aaron McCullough, mccullat@gmail.com or 614-940-2754.