

The Story
Week 2: What's in a Name?
May 23rd, 2021

OPENING PRAYER

Have someone in the group invite God's Holy Spirit into our presence. Pray for your encounter with God's Word. Ask God to open your heart and mind to some new understanding and especially to a new way of applying this truth in our daily lives.

SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES

| | | |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| ~Safe Group | ~Silence | ~Sharing |
| ~Confidentiality | ~No Cross Talk | ~Self-Aware |
| ~Listen | ~No Fixing | ~"I" Statements |
| ~Pause | ~No Rescuing | ~Handle Conflict Biblically |

"GETTING TO KNOW YOU"

Go around the room and briefly share your answer to the following question:

Have you ever looked up the meaning of your name? If not, briefly Google it and share with everyone the meaning.

INTRODUCTION

This Sunday at Madison Park we will continue our exploration of **The Story** - the historical narrative of scripture and the foundation for faith in God. Our search this week moves into the accounts of individuals with whom God interacts in pursuit of His plan to reconcile and redeem humanity.

Our key characters for Sunday's study are a nomadic couple introduced as **Abram and Sarai**. As we explore their fascinating biography, we will discover that God not only changes their lives, He also changes their names. The new names provide wonderful insight into the impact a dynamic encounter with the Living God can have on an individual life. Our scripture is found in Genesis 17:15-22.

THIS WEEK'S KEY SCRIPTURE: Genesis 17:15-22

Read the passage: Have someone in your group read the passage of scripture as everyone else follows along in their Bible.

DISCUSSION:

Go around the room and share from your heart, remembering the group guidelines.

EXPLORING THE SCRIPTURE:

- What do you notice in this text with new or fresh eyes?
- What do you struggle with?
- What surprises you?
- What encourages you?

ENGAGING THE MESSAGE:

- What are some of the labels other people have placed on you or known you by?
- How have these labels affected your life? Have you believed them?
- What name, or names, does God give you?
- Have you ever been prone to discount God's truth about you, to "laugh in disbelief" as Abraham did?
- What will it take for you to trust God's truth about you, to believe His name for you?

LIVING IT OUT-APPLICATION:

- Where have you seen Jesus this past week in your world (where you work live and play)?

CLOSING PRAYER: Spend some time in prayer, pray for the season we are in, for those that may be affected, for the community, for our world. Pray for one another, for those that might be absent and for prayer requests.