

# More Than a Name

## Module: WHAT IS WORSHIP?

### Lesson 2: THAT'S MY FATHER!

#### Objectives:

- Students will be able to verbalize their relationship to God the Father
- Students will know that God loves them...inside and out
- Students will understand their gifts and talents are for God's glory

#### Materials needed:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Poster Board or White Board
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Pieces of paper with the names of “parent” and “child” animals

**Leader's note:** By design this lesson focuses on God as our Father. For many students this can be a difficult and/or painful discussion, but it is still one that needs to take place. Be sure to consider your students as you prepare and approach the subject with the appropriate sensitivity. The reality that God is our Father is a wonderful truth that needs to be shared, but the word has been tainted for some. May God bless you as you seek to redeem it in the lives of your students.

## Minds On

Before your meeting, prepare a number of pairs of pieces of paper, one with the name of an adult animal, like “cow,” and the other with the name of the baby, such as “calf.” It must be an adult animal with a baby animal. Other examples are cat/kitten, dog/puppy, hen/chick, etc. Be creative with the animals, but don’t worry, they don’t all have to be the actual name. It could simply be mommy spider and baby spider. Before the students gather, hide the names of the baby animals throughout your meeting space. The larger the space used, the longer the game will take.

When you are ready to begin, give each student the name of an adult animal and then send them out to find their “baby.” If you weren’t able to come up with enough animals for your group, the slips of paper could also be colour coded, so there could be a blue cow/calf and a green pair. Prizes can be given to the first 3 students who find their missing “baby.”

The purpose of this exercise is to get the students thinking of parent-child relations.

## Action

Begin by reviewing the definition of worship from last week. Invite your students to share what they remember. You may want to point to a particular body part, like your eyes or hands, and ask them to share how they relate to worship. It would also be good to ask if anyone has any stories or experiences from the past week to share in connection with the challenge that was given to look for ways to worship God in specific ways.

Write down or display the following statement, “*Worship is knowing who God is, and recognizing what our relationship to Him*”. Give the students a few minutes to think about it, and then ask them what it means.

Help your students to understand that God is our Father and we are His children. Have students

look up Psalm 139:13, and ask them for their thoughts on the verse. Point out that it says that we were knit together in our mother's womb. Ask them why they think that image was chosen. Have them consider the attention to detail and focus that knitting takes. Each knot is done individually and on purpose. Affirm for your students that nobody was made by accident. Remind them that God put them together, bit by bit, inside and out...and that He loves them.

As mentioned in the above note, this would be the time to address some of the ways in which the word or the concept of “father” has been misused or tainted in our world. Perhaps ask them how society portrays fathers, and then ask them to share what they think a father should be like.

***Say something like:** One of the interesting things about families is that often they have similar traits or ways of doing things. Sometimes they look the same. Sometimes they sound or act the same way. If God is our Father and we are his kids, there should be some family resemblance between us.*

Have your students brainstorm a list of God’s attributes, things like He is loving, merciful, gracious, forgiving, creative, just, holy, and compassionate just to name a few. When an attribute is suggested, ask your students to think of ways that they could “look like that” to the people around them. Push them to come up with actual tangible examples rather than just saying, “I could love people more.”

## **Consolidate/ Debrief**

***Say something like:** As we become more and more like our Father, our lives become more and more of a living sacrifice, like we talked about last week. We are able to show and share His love with the world around us, helping others to see God for who He really is.*

Like last time, encourage your students to pick one or two attributes that are a particular challenge for them. Perhaps it’s forgiving others or showing compassion. Have them commit in pairs to encourage and hold each other accountable throughout the week in that area. Close your

time by having the pairs pray for one another.