

Rooted in Jesus

Lesson 2: What did you say your name was?

Objectives:

Students will

- learn some basic tools to help them interact with the Bible
- explore some of the things that Jesus said about himself

Materials Needed

- ☐ Lesson 2 handout
- ☐ Pen for groups of 2-4 students
- ☐ Scrap paper

Minds On

Play “Four on a Couch” (Thanks to www.thesource4ym.com for this game.)

Create a circle with chairs and one couch, enough seats for everyone playing plus one extra seat. 2 girls and 2 guys start off by sitting on the couch, while everyone else sits in the chairs. Give every person playing a paper to write their name on. They are to turn their names in to you.

Mix the names up and redistribute them back to the youth, making sure no one gets their own name. They are not to tell which name they have. The purpose of the game is for the guys to get all 4 guys on the couch and the girls to get all 4 girls on the couch. The person to the left of the empty seat calls out a name of someone in the circle. Whoever is **HOLDING THAT NAME** (not the one whose name it is, i.e John calls Amy's name, and Jeff is holding Amy's name) gets up and sits on the empty chair. The person who called the name and the person who sat on the chair, then exchange papers with names on it (that way the same name does not stay with the same person, it makes it more challenging). The person to the left of the new empty seat calls a new name; the same name cannot be repeated twice in a row.

Again, the purpose is for the guys to get the 2 girls off the couch and vice versa. This is a really fun game but it can last a long time.

(NOTE: Technically, a couch is not necessary for this game. You can simply have four designated chairs, perhaps placed in the middle of the circle depending on the size of your group. If there are time constraints, have students keep the same name throughout the game. This will make it go much faster.)

Ask the students what the challenges of playing “Four on a Couch” were. Why was it difficult? What aspects of the way the game was set up made it a challenge to win?

Some potential answers...

- the people you are interacting with don't want you to know who they are
- people want you to forget their "name" entirely so you can't make them move
- if played as stated, it is hard to keep track of the changing names that people have
- if you say the wrong name, you can actually end up hurting your team

Ask the students how people perceive getting to know God as challenging in the same ways.

Potential answers could include:

- it's hard to know exactly who God is and what he's like
- God sometimes feels distant and unapproachable
- God can be confusing sometimes
- some people think God is just waiting for them to make mistakes

Action

Say something like: Unfortunately, a lot of people think that God is really hard to get to know and that he is sort of trying to avoid us. Maybe they have tried talking to him, and feel like he never seems to answer. Or they've asked God to do something for them, and it seems like he never responds to them.

The truth is that God loves us and wants us to know him. He wants to talk to us and to interact with us. Jesus is God's way of coming to live among us and show us what he is really like!

A great way for us to get to know Jesus is to look at what he said and did, and ask ourselves some questions to help us understand what the Bible is saying.

Have students work in groups of 2 - 4 to complete the Lesson 2 handout. Give them about 20 minutes, and then have them partner with another group to share and discuss their findings. (If you want to give them more time to get richer, deeper answers, you may want to divide the handout up, so that each group only works on three of the passages.)

Consolidate/Debrief

Say something like: It is incredibly important for us to have an accurate picture of who Jesus is, even though this is a tough process and we will always be learning more. We will never fully understand everything that there is to know, but that doesn't mean we should stop trying! Just like you want people to know who you really are and understand and appreciate you, God wants us to do the same thing with him! And even more than that, God wants us to know him...not just about him.

This would be a great time to move the discussion towards your students' relationships with God. Ask them what they think about who Jesus is, and if they know him, know about him, or are just beginning to learn about God.

Close in prayer asking God to show himself to your students and help them come to know him more each day.