



MAIN SCRIPTURES: Genesis 1:1-27 Psalm 139:1-6 MAIN POINT: The Creator of the Universe knows your name.

# JESUS CONNECTION:

Jesus loves you and wants to be in a personal relationship with you.

### THE WHAT

WHAT are we talking about and WHY does it matter to me? (2-3 min)

#### ME

• Tell a story about a time someone forgot your name. The story can begin light-heartedly, but be prepared to make it poignant at the end. Using the story to lead into how having your name forgotten made you feel embarrassed, small, or unimportant.

### WE

#### **OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: THE NAME GAME**

- If you have more than 15 students, divide them into groups of seven or more each, plus an adult or designated student to listen in and judge their groups results. Be sure to split them into groups of people they are less familiar with. If your students know each other really well, play the game with middle names.
- One person in each group should start by saying their name. The second person must say the name of the first person, followed by their own name, and so on. Each time there is a mistake, the group must start over. You can either give a time list or declare the first group to complete their circle the winner.

#### TRANSITION

• Forgetting someone's name may not feel like a big deal...until it happens to you. Especially when the person who has forgotten your name is important to you, that experience can be humiliating. It's never about your name, though. Not really. It's about you.

#### **SO WHAT**

So WHAT does this mean for my faith and life with God? (5-6 min)

#### GOD

#### WE ALL WANT TO FEEL KNOWN.

- When someone forgets your name, it can feel like they've forgotten you. It may be irrational, but when someone forgets your name, you might start to wonder:
  - Am I forgettable?
    - Am I not important?
    - How much do I really matter?

# NOTES

# SO WHAT CONTINUED

# **GOD CONTINUED**

#### WE ALL WANT TO FEEL KNOWN.

We all want to feel like we matter. But the first step to feeling like you
matter is often feeling like you are known – not just your name but who
you are. You want to feel known and so do I. When we feel like someone
knows us, we feel like we matter.

SOMETIMES WE ARE DESPERATE TO BE KNOWN.

- Sometimes we want to feel that we matter so much that we do destructive things like:
  - Make compromises for the sake of someone's approval
  - Put on a fake front instead of being our real selves
  - Surround ourselves with people who aren't good for us.
- All of those compromises, those masks, those cliques can make us feel good in the short term; but there's a problem with craving attention and approval from other people or things. We might change our personalities, interests, hobbies, beliefs, or looks to earn their attention, but eventually...those people are going to let us down. Then what are we left with?
- Before we dive into that question, I want you to hear something first. You may wonder how it connects, but hang with me. We're going somewhere.

### READ GENESIS 1:1-27.

- Maybe use a narrative translation like The Message or The Voice. Consider having someone perform the reading over some instrumental music to help your students really reflect on what's being said.
- I love the pictures this paints.
- On a good day, I may be able to make myself a bowl of mac and cheese, but look at what all God made! The sun, moon, stars, animals, and oh yeah: YOU! Keep that in mind as we read another scripture.

# READ PSALM 139:1-6.

- This is a psalm, which means it's the lyrics to a song, that's written by David. Did you catch the first line? David is praising God for the way God knows him, inside out.
- This God the God who knows David so intimately and in so much detail is the same God who created the universe.
- This God knows you and me in that detail too. Think about that, the creator of entire galaxies, didn't just create you. He knows you, too...even better than you know yourself.

#### **JESUS CONNECTION**

- God created you to be in relationship with Him, but sin broke that relationship before we were ever born.
- God sent Jesus to die on the cross to rescue us from our sin and death; we are not saved by doing good things but by having faith in Jesus Christ.

# **TRANSITION**

• God knows you, the real you, and God wants a close, real relationship with you.

# **NOW WHAT**

So WHAT does this mean for my faith and life with God? (2-3 min)

# YOU

YOU ARE KNOWN BY YOUR CREATOR.

- Now let's go back to our earlier question (I told you we were going somewhere). Knowing that people can let us down, what do we do about our deep desire to be known? Sometimes the best thing we can do is to trust that we are already known.
- You are known by the Creator of the universe. You matter to Him so much! He knows every detail of your life, good and bad. He sees you. He loves you. He will never forget you.

**NOTES** 

# NOW WHAT CONTINUED

#### YOU CONTINUED

• Can you write that on your bathroom mirror, lock screen, or somewhere you will see it everyday and truly know it for yourself?

# WE

- And let's tell others of this truth! When you see them hurting, remind them they are known and they are loved.
- Let's remind each other. Imagine how much good could spread into everyone's lives by learning and embracing the

#### PRAY

- Close your time together in prayer, thanking God for knowing each and everyone in your group, knowing them and loving them completely.
- As you close, consider playing or performing (or asking someone else to perform) the song "Royals" by the North Point InsideOut Band.

**NOTES**