



It's Personal: wk2 The Power of Names

To be a church where we each make ministry personal a simple but very important step is understanding the value of knowing someone by name. In a world that likes to use labels to make it easier to talk about someone than to them, Christians need to embrace the value and dignity of each person's name.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever had an experience where someone remembered your name and you were surprised? How did their saying your name make you feel? Have you had that experience in reverse (someone surprised that you knew their name)?
2. Speculate for a second, how do you think Jesus knew Zacchaeus' name? If you were Zacchaeus up in that tree, what affect would hearing your name out of the mouth of Jesus have on you?
3. Who do you think was more surprised when Jesus used Zacchaeus' name – Zacchaeus or the crowd? What do you think they expected Jesus to say when he stopped and said his name?
4. **Read Isaiah 43:1 and John 10:3** In the sermon, Jeremy said that we name things we value. What do you think about this idea that Jesus, that God would know you by name?
5. How does using someone's name communicate honor or value? What is communicated when we use labels or give up trying to pronounce them correctly? Have you ever thought that learning to say someone's name correctly could have spiritual implications? Is that over stating it?
6. One of the excuses that we often make when it comes to names, is that we just are bad at remembering them. If names matter-how can we be better at remembering them? Any practical tips?

Shaping Your Mind *Luke 19: 5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today."*

Moving Forward – *Whether you realize it or not, someone near you is stuck in a tree looking for someone who will stop. They are quietly wondering, "Is there anyone out there who will... acknowledge me? Remember me? Connect with me? Engage me?"*