

79 **WHAT'S IN A NAME?**

Time: 45 Minutes

Call on the name – 1 CORINTHIANS 1:2

RESOURCES

- * Names of God handout per participant (download at www.ignite.rosedalemedia.org)
- * Writing utensil per participant

BACKSTORY

Many parents spend hours deliberating over a name for a coming newborn. Implicit in their deliberations is the belief that names shape people. And, in fact, an interesting study of MBA students by Nelson and Simmons (2007) shows that students whose names begin with C or D earned lower grade point averages than students whose names began with A or B. The biblical authors use hundreds of names for God. These names do not shape God. Instead, they shape your view of God—help you to understand him more fully.

PROCEDURES

1. Read the backstory.
2. Distribute the Names of God handout and give participants reflection time to follow the directions on the handout:
 - Sketch symbols for some of the names.
 - Circle names that especially attract you to God.
 - Underline names that increase your awe of God.
 - Star names that make you more curious about God.
3. When the time is right, say: *God's greatness is shown in part by such a variety of names. Let's read his names aloud.* Invite participants to read around the group—one name at a time.

GROUP PRAYERS / ADULT/YOUTH / PRAYING WITH THEMES

4. Invite participants to write sentence prayers at the bottoms of their papers using the names of God to address him. Examples:
 - God, Comforter, please help Jon to feel your presence in his sickness.
 - Emmanuel, your presence with me as I begin a new school year reassures me.
5. When the time is right, invite participants to pray their sentence prayers aloud with the whole group.