



“What’s in a Name?”

Club Culture Lesson

Schedule

- Small Group #1: Check in, Snack, Opening | 15 minutes
- Opening Activities (Music, Bible Verse, Birthdays, etc.) | 5 - 10 minutes
- Large Group Teaching | 10 - 15 minutes
- Game Time | 20 - 25 minutes
- Small Group #2: Discussion | 25 - 35 minutes
- Dismissal

Key Takeaway

I am created uniquely - we all belong in our Kids Club community.

Bible Verse

“... Listen to the Lord who created you... I have called you by name; you are mine.”
Isaiah 43:1 (NLT)



PREPARE

Prepare your heart to teach
Plan for the lesson

Materials Needed:

Small Groups

- Squishy ball, one per group (CKC Games Bag)
- An 8 1/2 by 11 inch sheet of white cardstock, one per student
- Pencils, one per student
- A black marker, three or four per group
- Colored pencils, crayons or markers, one box per group
- Index cards, one per student
- A bag of individually wrapped candies, enough for one piece per student
- Bible verse cards, one per student

Large Group

- Three name tag stickers
- Marker
- A piece of chart paper titled “We All Belong in our Crossroads Kids Club Community”
- A piece of tape

Materials for Suggested Games

- [Names in Motion](#) (No Materials Needed)
- [Middle Name Order Up](#) (No Materials Needed)



CONNECT

Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for



Small Group Session 1



Take attendance and distribute name tags and snacks to each child.



Share and Listen

Option 1

- Ask the children to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).

Option 2

- Ask the children to take turns sharing how they are feeling today using the “How Are You Feeling?” chart (from the CKC Games Bag)

Toss a squishy ball to one child and ask them to say “Hello, my name is ____.” Then, they can throw the ball to another player, who must say “Hi, (name of the person who threw the ball), my name is _____. Repeat until everyone has caught the ball and introduced themselves. Then, repeat with a new twist: when a player catches the ball, they must say the name of the person who threw it, plus the names of everyone who had the ball before that person. After everyone has mastered each other’s names, play rounds where each person shares a piece of personal information, such as favorite ice cream flavor, favorite color, what they had for breakfast that morning, etc. Students may enjoy coming up with the questions to use for play.



HEAD

Teach kids the story of the Gospel



LARGE GROUP



Opening Activity: Choose three names that students will be familiar with - these can be fictional characters, real people from pop culture, or famous historical figures (e.g. Santa Claus, Batman, Taylor Swift, etc.) Beforehand, write the names on three name tags. Call up three volunteers. Without letting them see the names that are written on the name tags, stick one on each person's back. One at a time, let the person turn around to show the audience the name they've been assigned. The audience can not reveal the name. Then, the player can ask the audience a series of yes or no questions to see if they can figure out their name.

You might have figured out from this game that today we are talking about names. Hopefully, you've learned some names of new friends today. Whose name did you learn for the first time today?

Take a volunteer response.

Did you learn their last name? What about their middle name? Did they have a nickname?

Allow student to respond.

- **Can anyone tell me your leader's name?**

Take another volunteer response.

Did you learn your leader's last name? Do you think everyone calls your leader by that name? What other names or titles might they have? If they are married or have kids, point out that their children probably call the leader "mom" or "dad." Or they may work somewhere that they go by a title, like Mr. or Mrs., or Dr. or Pastor. They may even have a funny nickname that they were called when they were a

kid!

You have different names too - you have a last name, which a long time ago meant that was what your family did for a living.

Allow a couple volunteers to share their last names, and make any guesses you can as to where the names may have come from.

You might have a middle name - some parents choose a middle name that has a special meaning or belongs to another important family member. Does anyone know what their middle name is and why their parents chose it?

Take a couple volunteer answers.

And your first name has a meaning too, even if you didn't know it!

- **Does anyone know what their name means?**

Take a couple volunteer answers. If you choose to look up the meaning of your own name (and even other leader's names) beforehand, share them with the students.

Did you know that God knows your name? In fact, he knew your name before anyone at Crossroads. He knew your name before you did, and even before your parents did! In fact, the Bible tells us that God knows our names before we are even born. Our verse today says that God calls us by name and we are His. He made us each unique and he loves us very much.

That's what we come to Crossroads to learn about. We are each created uniquely by God, and we all belong here in our Crossroads community.

Take the chart paper titled "We All Belong in our Crossroads Kids Club Community" and tape it on the wall. Underneath the title, write "I will help make Crossroads . . ."

We need your help to build an amazing community here at Kids Club - what are some words that you would use to describe a great Kids Club community?

Take volunteer responses. Then, write FUN, CARING, and RESPECTFUL on the chart paper.

A Crossroads Kids Club community is fun, caring and respectful. Now that we have met each other today, we are going to commit that we will each help make this a fun place, a caring place and a place where everyone is respected.



Close in prayer and dismiss to small groups.

Optional: *You may choose this time to teach the three Crossroads rules: Respect God and His Word, Respect Others and this place, and Respect Yourself.*

Optional: *You may choose to have the students take markers and sign their names on the chart paper, indicating their belonging to the community and their commitment to help make Crossroads a fun, caring and respectful environment.*



HEART

Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus



Small Group Session 2

Scripture

Show students a Bible.

Here at Crossroads we learn about God from his Word that he gives to us - the Bible. Today we learned that God knows our name. Our verse is from the prophet Isaiah.

Show students the table of contents in the Bible. Ask if anyone can find the name Isaiah. Show them how to find the book of Isaiah in the Bible and locate the verse using chapters and verse numbers (Isaiah 43:1). Read the verse together and give each child a verse card to take home.

Observation

Discuss these questions¹:

- ***What are some different names people call you by?** (Answers may vary - given names, nicknames.)
- ***How does it make you feel to know that God knows you better than anyone?** (Answers may vary.)
- **Share something unique about the way God created you.** (Answers will vary.)
- ***Our three rules at Crossroads are about respect:**
 - **Respect God and his Word.**
 - **Respect others and this place.**

¹ See CKC Games Bag for interactive discussion ideas.

- **Respect yourself.**

How can we make sure that everyone here is respected?

(Answers will vary.)

- **What does it mean to be a caring community?** (Including others, helping sharing, listening, being kind, etc.)
- ***Why do you think it's important for everyone to have fun here?**
(Answers may vary.)

Application

Activity Option 1: Name Art Craft (For older kids)

Give students a blank piece of 8 1/2 by 11 inch white cardstock paper, a pencil and a black marker. Using an example, show students how to write their name in all caps, reaching to touch all four edges of the paper. The first letter must touch the left edge, the last letter must touch the right edge, and all letters must touch the top and bottom of the page. The letters should also touch or overlap each other slightly. Students may want to write with a pencil first and then go over it with the black marker. After everyone has written their names, use colored pencils or crayons to fill in the spaces made by the touching letters with colors and patterns. Students can color in the white spaces with sketches or images that represent them (such as family, hobbies/special interests, etc.). If time allows, let each student share briefly what they drew and why they chose to draw the items that they did.



Activity Option 2: “God Knows My Name” Handout (For younger kids)

Give each student a copy of the “God Knows My Name” handout and coloring supplies. Instruct them to fill out the handout using words or drawings. Then, give each child a chance to share one thing they wrote or drew about themselves.

I love hearing how God made each of you unique, and I’m glad that each one of you belongs here in this group.

Prayer

One way we can help everyone to belong in our Kids Club community is to show we care for one another by listening to each other’s needs and praying for one another.

Prayer means that we talk to God about things that are on our minds, or things that are going on in our life-because he cares and he has the power to help us. You might be sad or worried or upset about something. Maybe you know someone who is sick or having a hard time. God listens to us when we share these things with him.

In our small group each week, you will have a chance to share something you'd like everyone to pray to God about for you or someone you know. We will show we care about each other by listening to these needs and by praying for each other.

Ask if anyone has anything they would like to share as a prayer request. Write down each child's name with their request on an index card. If a child doesn't have a request, write a general request such as "Johnny-have a great week at school!" Give each child one of the cards with another student's name. Go around the circle and have each child pray for the student by name and the request listed on their card. If your group doesn't feel comfortable praying aloud, allow them the option of praying silently or taking the cards home to remember to pray for that friend throughout the week.

Check Out | 5-10 minutes

Instruct students to gather their things and go to their designated small group check out area. Collect name tags and have check out sheet and a pen ready. While waiting, play the Bible verse game. Talk to parents as they sign their child out.

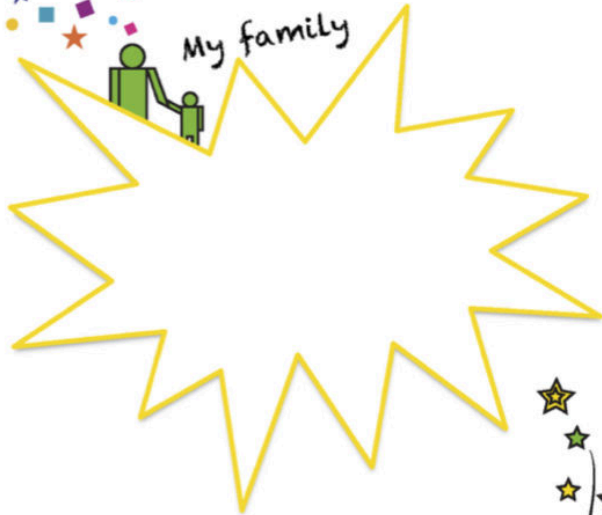
Bible Verse Game (Candy Pass)

Materials

- Bible verse cards
- A bag of individually wrapped candies, enough for one piece per student

Instruct the first player to say the first three words of the verse (you may choose to let them reference their Bible verse card or not) and pass the bag of candy to the student on the right. Each student says the next three words of the verse. When the last word/reference is said, that student takes a candy from the bag and passes the bag to the right. Repeat until each child has received a piece of candy.

God Knows My Name!



I am _____ years old.
I am in _____ grade.
My teacher is _____.
My birthday is _____.



At home I like to, . . .
!



At school I like to, . . .

I'm special because. . . !



"... Listen to the Lord
who created you... I have
called you by name; you
are mine." Isaiah 43:1 (NLT)

