

Called by Name

ISAIAH 43:1

Lesson Truth: *God our Father knows exactly who we are and he calls us all into his family. We belong to God.*

Bible verse: *Do not fear for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.*

—Isaiah 43:1 NRSV

Sandra Brese Rice, New York

Elementary Bible Study: We Belong to God

Opening Thoughts:

- Do you know who created you?
- Whose plan was it for you to be a boy or a girl?

Yes! God created you and everything about you is his plan.

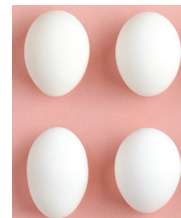
Now think about your name or what people call you.

- Do you know why you were named what you are named? Was it after someone special?
- How does it feel to know the same God who made you, knows what your name is?

Today's Bible verse reminds us that God knows exactly who we are and he calls us by name into his family. We belong to God!

Opening Activity: Sometimes knowing the answer to a question can be tricky. Cover up the pictures below and see if you can answer the following riddles without the extra help.

1. What can honk without using a horn? _____
2. What has a thumb and four fingers but is not alive? _____
3. What has to be broken before you can use it? _____
4. What goes up and up and up and never comes back down? _____
5. What belongs to you but is used more by others? _____



Now let's see if you can figure out one from a Bible story. Name a time when there was fire and smoke but nothing burned? _____

Bible Time: Moses had many questions in his life, but each time he did, God showed Moses what he was calling him to do. God called Moses to live, serve and lead.

God Called Moses to Live: Read Exodus 2:1-10

- The pharaoh in Egypt was afraid of God's people, the Israelites, and decided to kill all the baby boys so the nation would not grow larger. But God created Moses for a purpose. How was Moses saved from death?
- What does the name Moses mean?

Read Exodus 2:15

- Moses got into serious trouble in Egypt and angered the pharaoh. Where did God send him for safety?

Read Exodus 2:16-21

- What did Moses do to show the father he was trustworthy?
- How did God help homeless Moses live?

God Called Moses to Serve: Read Exodus 3:2-4

- Here's the answer to our last riddle! How did God get Moses' attention?
- What did Moses say after God called his name?
- How would you feel to actually hear God shout your name?

Read Exodus 3:10

- What did God tell Moses to do?
- God called Moses to serve him but Moses gave God a hard time. Moses came up with question after question and excuse after excuse as to why he could not help with God's plan. Have you ever come up with questions and excuses about something you knew you should do?
- Eventually Moses agreed to serve God, and God gave him help. God called Moses' brother Aaron to help Moses. Do you have anyone who helps you when you are afraid to do things alone?

God Called Moses to Lead

Read Exodus 6:2-5

- What does God call himself?
- God made a covenant, or promise, to the Israelites many years before Moses; now he says it is time to keep this promise. How does it feel to know God keeps his promises?
- Is it important to keep promises? Why?
- God called Moses to lead God's people away from Egypt and slavery to freedom. Eventually, the people came to the land promised by God, but it took 40 years of traveling! 40 years is a long time to be a leader. Do you think it was an easy job for Moses? Why or why not?
- Who could Moses turn to when he had questions or felt his job was too hard to do?
- Who do you turn to when you have a job that seems too hard to do?

God knew who we were before we were born, and God knows who we are right now. God also knows who we will become when we are older. God knows everything about us and he has a plan for our lives. Like Moses, God calls us!

- Do you know what a disability is? Do you know anyone with a disability?
- Who created all people? Who loves all people? Who calls all people?

Because we all were created by God, are loved by God and are called by God, we all belong to God! God wants us all to love and serve him and his people.

Sometimes it is hard to know all the answers to God's calling. Sometimes we have questions and we may wonder, "What does God want me to do?" or "How does God want me to act?"

Who might be able to help you understand what God wants you to do? (Mark next to ideas.)

☐ God (by praying) ☐ your parents or guardians ☐ a teacher
☐ your pastor or Bible class leader ☐ a close friend ☐ someone in your family

Closing Thoughts: Throughout Moses' life, he had questions and confusion as to what God was calling him to do. Sometimes he felt life was like a riddle. Each time Moses wondered what to do, God showed Moses part of his plan. God called Moses to live, serve and lead God's people. God loved Moses and was always there for him. God loves and calls us, too. God knows all of us and he knows us all by name. God has a plan and a purpose for all of us, regardless of our size, age or abilities. It is important for us to see everyone as God's creation and loved by God.

Closing Prayer: Dear God our Father, you are the one and only true God. You created us and you know everything about us. God, you know each of our names. Help us remember you call us to love and serve you and your people. Forgive us when we forget to turn to you when we are confused or have questions. Help us know what we should do and how we should act. Thank you for loving us all the same. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Answers to riddles: 1. goose 2. glove 3. egg 4. your age 5. your name 6. Moses and the burning bush (Exodus 3:2)