

CONNECT GROUP GUIDE: 26 Aug. 2018

WELCOME [KNOWING EACH OTHER DEEPER]

Let's make everyone feel welcome, especially the new faces in the group.

Connect Question: Do you have, or have you ever had, a nickname? Please share!

WORSHIP [TAKE OUR LOVE FOR GOD DEEPER]

Let praise flow from my lips, for you have taught me your decrees.

Let my tongue sing about your word, for all your commands are right.

Psalm 119: 171-172 (NLT)

WORD [LIVING DEEPER FOR HIM]

What's in a name? The mere mention of someone's or something's name, conjures up a certain perception and collection of thoughts and feelings in one's own heart and mind. Which have largely been informed by all one's interactions, experiences, and observations concerning that particular name. It is the same with each of our own names and all that our lives come to represent in this world. When we live to please God, our lives take on the nature and character of His name!

A good name:

- Read **Ecclesiastes 7:1 (AMP):**
 - Consider your personal reputation before you came to know Jesus as your saviour ..
 - Consider your reputation since you came to know Jesus as your personal saviour ..
 - Take a moment to reflect on the above, and then discuss amongst each other
- Read **2 Corinthians 5: 17-20 (NLT):**
 - We carry both the enormous privilege and responsibility as Christ's ambassadors, as our name now bears the reputation for His church - Christ's body
 - Discuss the importance of us protecting and living out His namesake in this world
- Refer to the gospel of Luke's (chapter 7:36-50) account of Jesus being anointed by a woman with expensive perfume from an alabaster jar:
 - Consider all you possess in this life and ask, as unworthy recipients of God's unmerited grace and provision, if there is anything you're not willing to give up as a sacrifice of praise and worship to our precious Saviour Jesus Christ?
 - Also ask yourself if there is anyone in this world who you would not want to be seen before, giving your all to Jesus?
- Read **Galatians 1:10 (NIV):**
 - We are set free from our sins to be servants of Christ. Which calls for obedience and a life lived that is pleasing to our Master. In all our ways, in all we say, each new day

What we sometimes seem to be losing from a worldly perspective can be seen to be a great gain from a heavenly perspective. As we empty ourselves to give our all to Jesus, we earn His reputation, as representatives of the Most High God - to become the hands and hearts and minds and mouths of our Saviour to a world so desperate to give their all - for the only Way, the only Truth, and the only Life. Jesus has saved us and changed us and brought us into His marvellous kingdom of light, where His beautiful name now prevails brightly over ours.

WORKS [GOING DEEPER IN PRAYER]

Let's pray for:

- God to reveal areas in our lives that require more of Him, and less of us.
- Any special needs in the group.