



What's In A Name?

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PUPPETS

1. Chief
2. Brave
3. Baby
4. Mom
5. Dad
6. Tala

PEOPLE

1. Director

PROPS

1. Large Stage
2. Small guitar?
3. Indian Headdress

SOUND

1. Ripples Theme
2. Blessed Be The Name Of The Lord
3. Boy Named Sue
4. A Horse With No Name – Short
5. Everyone Knows Your Name

ACT I

Music: Blessed Be The Name Of The Lord (Sung by puppets after live worship song)

Director: Good morning kids! I didn't hear you! Good Morning Kids!

Names are a very important thing. How many of you like your name? How many of you don't like your name? How many of you have a nickname? How many of you like your nickname? How many of you hate it?

Names can be inherited, they can be silly and sometimes they can change your life.

Today we are going to see how names are important in different ways.

In the bible, many people got new names when they came to God. Jesus told Simon that he would be called Peter. Abram was renamed by God Abraham when he chose him.

So, what's in a name? Why don't we see?

Music – Boy Named Sue (Sung by “Berry”)

Scene: Puppet singing goes down and up comes young Indian boy and his father, the Chief.

Chief: So my son, how did classes go today?

Son: Not well my father. (Bows head) I failed bow and arrow.

Chief: Bow and arrow? How could you fail bow and arrow? You are the son of a Chief! This is unacceptable. How will I be able to lift my head at the Chief's council if a son of mine can't even pass bow and arrow?

Son – It's not my fault father.

Chief – Then whose fault would it be? The Big grumbly bear that lives behind the mountain?

Son – Noooo! But Father, it's not my fault, they tease me constantly. Every day the other boys harass me.

Chief – you are the son of a chief! You cannot let a little name-calling affect you.

Son – Father, you just don't understand. (Lowers head and pauses)

Father? May I ask you a question?

Chief – You can ask me anything son, you know that.

Son – How did you pick my name?

Chief – Well son, when your mother would bless me with a child, I would leave the teepee and the first thing that came by would let me know what it's name should be.

Such as your brother Soaring Eagle, and your sister leaping deer. (Pause)

Why do you ask, Crazy Little Squirrel?

Son – (Moans and drops down)

Director – Well, that explains some things doesn't it? All names are not helpful are they? Sometimes our name can even create problems for us. Can't it?

Let's see how someone else gets their name – shall we?

ACT II

Music – A Horse with No Name - Short

Scene – Baby puppet is crying and mom and dad are trying to decide what to do.

Mom – You know sweetheart, we have to give the baby a name. We can't keep calling him "the Baby" forever.

Dad – I know, I know. But we have been thinking about it since you knew you were pregnant and we still haven't come up with anything.

Mom – But we have to decide. I think it's time that we made a decision.

Dad – You're right. What about Bartholomew? We both kinda liked that one.

Baby – (cries louder.)

Mom – It appears "the Baby" has an opinion about that.

Dad – Yeah, I guess I didn't like it that much either.

Mom – How about Rufus? I think that is an unusual name?

Baby – (begins screaming)

Dad – (to baby) You don't like Rufus?

Baby – (screams really loud.)

Mom – Yeah Ru... (baby interrupts with crying.)

Dad – All right! All Right! We won't call you Ruf (Baby cries)... uh that name!

Mom – then what are we going to call him? I have run out of ideas.

Dad – You know, your dad is a really great guy. Why don't we name him after him?

Mom – You mean call him Robert?

Dad – Yeah, why not? (baby coos) See, even he likes it.

Mom – And his middle name could be your fathers, John. That way he will have the name of two great men. What do you think?

Baby – (giggles)

Dad – I think that is a yes. (To baby) Well Robert John Smith, welcome to the family!

Mom – finally!

Director – How many of you have the same name as a member of your family such as a grandmother or grandfather? If you don't know, you might want to ask your parents how you got your name.

There are many different ways that people come by their names. The last one we will look at today is, in my opinion, the best way to get a name. Does anyone have any ideas what that might be?

Well, let's just watch and see.

Act III

Music – Everybody Knows Your Name

Scene – Mom and Dad are talking.

Dad – So, it's set then. We are in agreement?

Mom – Yes dear.

Dad – Are you really sure you want to do this? It is a lifetime commitment and will be very expensive.

Mom – I know.

Dad – It will mean changing our whole lives around. We won't have the freedom we have now.

Mom – I know.

Dad – It will just be one more thing for us to worry about.

Mom – Of course.

Dad – Do you know what you are getting us into?

Mom – I have never wanted anything more in my life.

Dad – Did you speak with the lady at the agency?

Mom – Of course I did. She is thrilled for us and everything is in order. She said we can move forward anytime we are ready.

Dad – well then...

Mom – Are YOU ready? You seem a little unsure.

Dad – Of course I am ready. This is something I have wanted my whole life as well.

Mom – It will mean that you can't golf as often.

Dad – I know.

Mom – You are going to worry.

Dad – Of course.

Mom – It will be very expensive.

Dad – Uh huh.

Mom – It will mean giving up some of our freedom.

Dad – Hmm, seems I've heard this somewhere before.

Mom – Yes, from a wise man that I love very much.

Dad – Then I guess we had better call her in.

Tala! Come here for a moment. We have something we would like to ask you.

Tala – I'm not in trouble am I? I haven't done anything wrong, I promise!

Dad – No, Tala you haven't done anything wrong. We just have something we would like to ask you.

Tala – Yes?

Mom – Tala, you came to us a while ago and we have loved being your foster parents...

Tala – Oh no! I just knew it! You are sending me back aren't you?

I promise I will be better. I promise to do everything you ask without complaining!
Please don't send me back. I hate that place. I don't want to go back!

Dad – Tala, sweetheart, calm down. We are not sending you anywhere. In fact we have just spoken with the lady at the foster care center and we would like to adopt you. We are asking you Tala to be our daughter for real, to be a permanent member of this family.

Tala – You mean I won't ever have to leave and you will be my mom and dad? Really?

Mom – Really.

We love you so much and we want you to stay. Would you mind being called Tala Johnson from now on?

Tala – Would I mind? Would I mind? That is the greatest news I have had in my whole life! I love you so much Mrs Johnson... I mean, MOM!

I just have to tell Bonnie. She is gonna flip. I GET TO STAY! (bounds off stage)

Dad – There goes our daughter.

Mom – Yep... I wouldn't have it any other way. (Both puppets drift down.)

Director – Sometimes the best name we can ever receive is when someone chooses to give us their name, when we are adopted into their family.

When we are born into a family they have no choice. They love us to be sure but they get you no matter what kind of person you are. Also, you are stuck with them. There is no choice.

But when we are adopted, someone chooses you. They are saying that they love you so much that they want you to be a member of the family. This is a very special kind of love. For it is a love given freely.

When God changed Jacob's name to Israel, He made a covenant or a promise to him. He told Israel that He would be the father of God's people and that God would protect them and cherish them. They were in essence, adopted into God's family and that is why God gave Jacob a new name.

When we come to faith in Jesus, we are adopted into His family, the body of Christ, and so we get a new name "Christian" which means follower of Christ. He does not have to adopt us, He WANTS to adopt us. All we have to do is ask. How awesome is that?

So the next time you hear a name, remember that both good and bad, there may be a meaning behind it.

Use names for others that lift up and bring others happiness and encouragement. Don't use names that tear down and hurt. And most of all, be proud to be called one of the family of God or Christian.

Music – Where everybody Knows Your Name

Ripples Theme

Closing prayer.

End