



Faith Together at Home

God Calls Us by Name

Explore
the Bible

Gather Together

Gather around an open Bible. Share highs and lows from the day. When someone shares a high, give them a high five. When someone shares a low, comfort them with a gentle hug. Read aloud Isaiah 43:2, explaining that God makes and keeps promises. God loves us very much and is with us in good times and hard times.

Discover Together

Gather in a circle and invite the youngest family member to begin by thinking of a Bible person whose name begins with the letter A. The next oldest family member names a Bible person whose name begins with a B, and so on until everyone has had at least one turn. Have a Bible and story Bible nearby for reference.

Each of the Bible people named played a role in God's story and was loved by God. Each of us is also loved by God and part of God's story. Ask someone to read aloud Isaiah 43:1b. Repeat together, "I have called you by name, you are mine." Invite everyone to close their eyes and imagine God gently and lovingly saying these words to them.

Talk Together

Ask these questions of each other:

- Who chose your name for you? If you know what your name means, share it.
- As followers of Jesus, we all share a common name: Christian. Do you know what this name means? (Follower of Christ)
- As Christians, what promises and blessings are ours?
- What responsibilities come with being a Christian?
- When is it easy to be a Christian? When is it more challenging?

Eat Together

Buy refrigerated breadstick dough and give some to each person. Have them form their initials with the dough. Follow package directions for baking the breadsticks. Say a quick prayer and then eat them as a reminder that God calls us by name.

Serve Together

In baptism, God welcomes us into God's family, calling us by name. Who has been baptized in your church lately? Ask your church office for this information. Then make and mail a "Welcome to the Family" card that includes these words from Isaiah 43:1b: "I have called you by name, you are mine."

Family Prayer

Say this prayer or blessing at the close of your time: **Loving God, we are so thankful that you have welcomed us into your family. We are grateful that you know each of us by name. Help us share your love in all we say and do. Amen.**