



Through time and in sacred moments, names take on meaning beyond the spoken syllables. Our attempts to name God show the relational power of names and remind us that no name will fully encompass God. We try to name ourselves in ways that give meaning or make sense of the world. Sometimes naming and labeling can become divisive or hurtful. Other times, the way we name others can defy expectations.

Sometimes advocates in our lives empower us beyond the limits of expectations and society's structures, such as Elizabeth defying tradition to give her child a new name. Often it is our own experience and struggle that forges our identity.

As campers reflect on these stories, the names of characters, and the names of those who have shaped us, we are comforted by a God who is bigger than all our questions. We are accompanied by a God who transcends our words. We go out to serve in the name of God, who empowers us to name every moment and every place as holy ground.

The scriptures for the 2022 summer camping season at Camp Mennoscah are below. Some camp weeks will not use all the scriptures. We invite you to read these with your camper(s) before coming to camp and to incorporate them into your daily worship.

### **Exodus 3:1-15—Name Dropping**

Campers will consider how the presence of spirit makes a place holy and examine ways God has been faithful through generations. They will ponder how the act of naming reflects a deeper knowing and be assured that God knows us by name.

### **Luke 19:1-10—Name Calling**

Campers will understand that Jesus loves beyond assumptions and divisions. They will identify how our personal labels create limits and identify their power to transcend labels and make a covenant to move beyond labels and practice acceptance.

### **Luke 1:57-66--Given Name**

Campers will explore the expectations placed on them identify ways they are pressured to follow the crowd and learn that challenging norms can be liberating. They will see the ways God is nurturing something new in them.

### **Ruth 1--That's Not My Name**

Campers will discover people in the Bible named difficult feelings and be empowered to claim their own identity and be encouraged to respect the experiences of others. They will consider faith may not lead to easy answers.

### **Genesis 32:22-31--Name Tag**

Campers will consider how pivotal moments can change their identity and explore how a spiritual encounter can reroute one's path. They will acknowledge moments that have forever changed us and examine how we mark important moments.

### **Matthew 16:13-18--What's in a Name**

Campers will recognize names can be a reminder of their potential and realize potential is not always immediately fulfilled. They will learn to embrace failure as part of their story and be empowered to live into their story.

### **Exodus 3:1-15—More Than A Name**

Campers will recognize that identity lies more in who you are than what you're named and know encountering the holy cannot be limited by words.