

Title: A Name

Theme: God takes care of all his children

Scripture: Matthew 19:14 "Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children.'"

Supplies Needed: name tag, markers; have pastor wear a name tag; a picture of Jacob and Aliamma (Ah-lee-am-ma) George or their prayer card and/ or picture of Sudanese children

Sermon: Good morning kids, good to see you all. Today we are going to talk about names. Please write your name on these tags and maybe you older kids can help the younger ones. See my name tag says _____. Where do we get our names? _____ (*parents already have the last name and when we are born they give us a first and middle name.*) Good, now we know what our names are, but did you ever think that there might be boys or girls in the world with no name?

Our story today comes from two of our favorite missionaries in Malakal, South Sudan, a new country in Africa. Jacob and Aliamma George work there with the Sudanese people to help them improve their lives and learn about Jesus and God's story in the Bible. Jacob is a teacher and Aliamma works with families to help them reach their goals in their home and neighborhood. (*show picture or prayer card*)

Jacob told us about a walk they took one day, and they are always walking in their town, to market and through the neighborhood because they have NO car! They met a little boy about 10 years old. Who is 10 here today? Jacob asked him his name and he said he had no name. They found out he also had no home or family. Isn't that very sad?

Jacob gave him the name of John. The little boy was very excited and went around telling the other kids he had a name. "John" does not have an easy life, but we know God loves him and has cared for him on the streets of Malakal. Aliamma and Jacob do see John in the streets and they pray for him, for his safety, good health and that someday soon John will believe in Jesus and the God who loves him and cares for him.

Sometimes it is hard to remember that God is always with us no matter what our names are, but when we pray every day we are talking to God and thanking him for Jesus.

Please join me in prayer. I'll say it them you say what I said. (*echo prayer*) —Dear Jesus-----thank you for always being by our side-----we pray that you take care-----of all the children around the world-----even if they do not have a name----- Please bless John in Sudan-----and the missionaries who are teaching children to believe in God's son, Jesus-----Amen-----.

