

God Puts a Face to a Name

by Caroline Ferdinandsen

for use as

STEP 1

**Lesson 6****Focus:**

God wants us to know Him through Jesus.

Lesson 6**Bible Basis:**

Exodus 33:11-23;
John 1:14, 18

Lesson 6**Memory Verse:**

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. —John 1:14

Students will watch a meeting between two pen pals who have never met in person as a way to get them thinking about getting to know God.

Materials:

Internet access

Maybe you have gotten some actual snail mail or a package during the past few months of pandemic. But in our digital age, does anyone write usually letters anymore? It seems so easy these days to depend upon texting, Snapchat, or Facetime to communicate with the people we care about. But it wasn't always that easy. Let's take a look at two friends who used letters to keep their friendship going for a really long time.

Share the following video with your students [3:23]:

Title: Snail Mail Pen Pals Meet for the First Time

Source: YouTube.com

URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AIDX04bbYLU>

Short Description: Two women were snail mail pen pals for 65 years. They've shared their lives with each other despite never meeting in person—until now.

After your class is finished watching the video, discuss the following questions together:

- **Do you find it surprising that these two friends kept the letters going for so many years? Do you think you could do something like that? Why?** (Students answers will vary.)
- **How is a face-to-face relationship different from one that is developed only through writing?** (Spending time with someone allows for details and observation; in writing you only see what the other person chooses to reveal about themselves.)
- **What can we learn about someone in real life that we can't learn about on paper or in a text?** (A flesh-and-blood person is real, tangible, and concrete. They aren't a fictional character in a book or just a fantasy we've made up.)

Some people say Jesus is just a fictional character in an ancient book called the Bible. But God gave us His only Son—in the flesh—to provide more than just words. Today we will discover some different ways that God revealed Himself to us and some creative ways you can get to know Him better.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

middle school



Lesson 6 / July 12, 2020

God Puts a Face to a Name

for use as
STEP 4 

Lesson 6

Focus:

God wants us to know Him through Jesus.

Lesson 2

Bible Basis:

Exodus 33:11-23;
John 1:14, 18

Lesson 2

Memory Verse:

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. —John 1:14

Materials:

- Bible
- Pens, pencils, markers, etc.
- Stationery or paper
- Envelope

Before the lesson, take time to mark the following verses in your Bible: Psalm 139:13-14; John 3:16; Jeremiah 31:3; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4; Hebrews 13:5. If you are teaching online, ask students to have a piece of paper or stationery available for this part of the lesson.

Sometimes the Bible can feel distant and formal. But God wrote it just for YOU. Let me read some verses to you. Adapt the verses to fit your class. Here are some ideas along with the references: **I have created you—you are fearfully and wonderfully made** (Psalm 139:13-14); **I love you with an everlasting love** (Jeremiah 31:3); **because I love you I gave My Son so you could be forgiven and have eternal life** (John 3:16); **I am your Father and I comfort you so you can comfort others** (2 Corinthians 1:3-4); **I will never leave you or forsake you** (Hebrews 13:5).

➤ **How does this change our reading of the Bible?** (When we realize the Bible is not just a set of abstract ideas, but a personal message to each person, it should change how we respond to it.)

➤ **Have you ever written a letter to God before? If He already knows our thoughts, why is it still a good idea to write them down sometimes?** (Sometimes it's hard to concentrate when we are praying. Writing a letter is intentional; it slows us down as we think about what we want to say.)

Provide each student with a sheet of paper or stationery. Give your students the remaining class time to find a quiet place to write a letter to God. If they have trouble thinking about what to write, suggest that they respond to any of the points in the copy of the letter from God that they

received. They might also focus on one of these options: 1. tell Jesus your fears for the future, 2. tell Jesus what you're grateful for, or 3. tell Jesus why you love Him.

When class concludes, encourage each student to read their letter throughout the week to remind themselves that God wants to know us through Jesus.

Text or email your students the personalized verses throughout the week as another reminder of God's love for them.

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