

Ghosts of Christmas Past ~ Week 3

Labels

Think back to the message. What sticks out?

Key Scriptures

The tongue has the power of life and death... Proverbs 18:21

...Rachel began to give birth and had great difficulty. And as she was having great difficulty in childbirth, the midwife said to her, "Don't despair, for you have another son." As she breathed her last—for she was dying—she named her son Ben-Oni. But his father named him Benjamin. Genesis 35:16-18

Key Points

- What's true about you now, doesn't have to be true about you later.
- God's power is bigger than your past.
- You don't get to choose what comes into your life. You do get to choose what you call it.
- If you don't like what you've been called, name it something different.

More Scripture

Isaiah 62:4, 2 Corinthians 5:17, John 1:12, Romans 8:14-17

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- If you had to put one label on your annual Christmas family gathering, what would it say?
- Do you ever buy anything based mostly on the label? How does the label affect your decision?

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- Finish this statement, "sticks and stones may break my bones but ..." What do you think about this phrase?
- Read Proverbs 18:21. Why do you think labels are so powerful? What makes them matter?

Start sharing. Choose questions that create openness.

- What are some positive and negative labels you've been given? How is your Heavenly Father naming you something different?
- What difficulty have you experienced that can become a strength for you?
- How are you labeling your kids, coworkers, family, and friends? Do you need to rename anyone like Jacob did in Genesis 35:16-18?

Start praying. Be bold, and pray with power.

- Heavenly Father, You gave up Your son Jesus so we could be called something different. We were too much, not enough, failures, and cheaters. Now You call us Your sons and daughters. Thank You. And will You help us to grow into our new name? Amen.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Fill in the blanks. I've been called _____. But my Heavenly Father calls me _____. Write this down somewhere you'll see it.