

VENTURE YOUTH – PARENTS GUIDE

SERIES TITLE

WHO?

OVERVIEW

'WHO?' is a six-week series designed to help young people move from knowing *about* God to discovering who God *actually* is. Throughout Scripture, God reveals Himself through different names that describe His character, His nature and the way He relates to His people. Each week will explore a different name of God, helping us to see that God isn't distant, abstract or just a character from Bible stories. He is a God who creates, knows, provides, heals, brings peace and guides.

WEEK 1: ELOHIM (CREATOR, MIGHTY & STRONG)

MAIN IDEA:

Elohim means God as Creator, mighty and powerful. Genesis 1 shows us a God who creates simply by speaking – nothing is too difficult or beyond His power. We aren't accidents or afterthoughts; God intentionally created us in His image, which means our identity and value begin with Him rather than our appearance, popularity, abilities or what other people think about us. Elohim isn't just powerful enough to create the universe; He is the God who created *us* and knows us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What name of God did you explore this week?
- Do you think people have a purpose? Why or why not?
- What do you think gives a person value?
- How does knowing that God created you affect the way you see yourself?
- Where do you think your identity comes from?

- How can remembering who created you change the way you deal with comparison?

WEEK 2: YAHWEH (LORD & I AM)

MAIN IDEA:

Yahweh is the name God gives Moses when He says, "I AM WHO I AM." This reveals a God who simply is. He is eternal, self-existent and dependent on nothing else. While everything else changes and depends on something else, God remains constant and faithful.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What name of God did you explore this week?
- Do you think people change depending on who they're around? Why?
- What makes someone trustworthy?
- What does it mean to you that God is unchanging?
- Are there times when you find it difficult to trust God?
- How does knowing that God is faithful affect the way you pray?

WEEK 3: JIREH (GOD WILL PROVIDE)

MAIN IDEA:

Yahweh Jireh means "The Lord will provide," and Genesis 22 shows this through God's provision of a ram for Abraham. God's provision doesn't mean He will give us everything we want or make every problem disappear, but it does mean we can trust Him with what we need and with the things we cannot control. From providing food for Israel in the wilderness to Jesus calling Himself the Bread of Life, God's provision is a consistent theme throughout Scripture.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What name of God did you explore this week?
- What's something you're worried about at the moment?
- When you're worried, who do you normally turn to?
- Why can it be difficult to trust God when we don't know the outcome?
- What do you need to trust God with?

WEEK 4: YAHWEH-RAPHA (LORD WHO HEALS)

MAIN IDEA:

Yahweh Rapha means "The Lord who heals". The Bible shows us that God cares about people when they are hurting, and Jesus repeatedly moved towards people who were sick, broken and hurting. We can experience many different kinds of brokenness, whether that is physical, emotional, relational or spiritual and God doesn't ignore any of them. At the same time, we need to acknowledge that healing doesn't always happen in the way or timing we expect.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What name of God did you explore this week?
- What are some examples of healing in the Bible?
- How can we trust God when we don't understand why something happened?
- What do you think healing looks like beyond someone's physical health?

WEEK 5: YAHWEH-SHALOM (LORD OUR PEACE)

MAIN IDEA:

Yahweh Shalom means "The Lord is Peace," and Gideon discovers this when he encounters God even though his circumstances haven't suddenly changed. Biblical peace isn't simply having an easy life or having nothing to worry about; shalom speaks of wholeness, completeness and wellbeing. Jesus promises His followers a peace that is different from what the world offers, and the story of Jesus calming the storm reminds us that His presence doesn't mean there will never be storms – it means we don't have to face them alone.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What name of God did you explore this week?
- What kinds of things make you feel stressed or anxious?
- What helps you calm down when you're overwhelmed?
- Do you think peace is something you find or something you build?
- How do you think trusting God helps people feel peace?
- What could help bring more peace into your daily routine?

WEEK 6: YAHWEH-ROHI (SHEPHERD)

MAIN IDEA:

Yahweh Rohi means "The Lord is my Shepherd," and Psalm 23 gives us a deeply personal picture of what that looks like. A shepherd knows, feeds, protects and leads their sheep, and God doesn't simply create us and leave us to figure life out on our own. Young people are surrounded by competing voices telling them who to be, what to believe and how to live, so this week can explore the question: "Who has your voice?" A shepherd doesn't just stand at the destination and shout directions, but rather he walks with the sheep.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What name of God did you explore this week?
- Who's opinion matters most to you?
- What impacts the way that you see yourself?
- Is there an area of your life where you need God to guide you?
- What voices compete with God's voice in your life?
- What is one thing you could do this week to spend more time listening to God?

GENERAL PRACTICAL TIPS:

- You don't need all the answers. Honest conversations about God, life and character often matter more than saying the 'right' thing. Listen, stay curious and let growth happen over time.
- Ask open-ended questions like "What stood out to you this week?" rather than "What did you learn?"
- Keep discussions natural and relaxed rather than turning them into a lesson.
- Listening well is often more powerful than speaking a lot.
- If your young person does not want to talk much at first, that's okay! Consistency builds trust.
- Reach out if you need help or guidance!