A. Names are important because they often do more than just ______ an individual. Names can actually reveal ______ a person is, and what he or she is _____.

B. The many names for God help us in at least two ways:
   1. First, They help us identify the one, ______ ______.
   2. Second, God’s names describe His ______ ______.

C. These names are like miniature ______ ______ filled with ________, given by God as a gift to us so we can actually know Him.

D. Today we will explore one final name for God – ______.

E. If we are going to understand the term “Father” in the Bible, we must be willing to explore a different ______ than our own.

F. For most of history and in most cultures of the world, fathers have been the ______ ______ in families.

G. You might be surprised to discover that God is ______ referred to as Father in the Old Testament.
   1. Twice God is referred to as Father in the ______ sense (Dt. 32:6, Isa. 64:8).
   2. Twice God describes himself as Father to the ______ who will be his son (1 Chronicles 17:13; 22:10).
   3. More often, God is referred to as Father in a defending, ______ context (Ps. 89:26; Isa. 63:16; Jer. 31:9).
   4. In a single ______ passage the Child is referred to as Father in terms suitable to only God himself (Isa. 9:6).
   5. Twice in Jeremiah, God puts “Father” into the ______ of His people in the form of address (Jer. 3:4; 3:19b)

H. Jesus introduced us to God as ______ Father or Father in ______ (Mt.5:45; 6:9; 7:11; 10:32-33; 18:14, 19).

I. ______ is one of the hallmarks of the use of Father by Jesus and the early church.

J. ____ appears three times in the New Testament (Mk. 14:36; Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6).

K. In several places in the NT we see God as the universal Father in the context of a parent and his children (2 Cor. 6:18; Eph. 3:14; 1 Jn. 3:1; Eph.1:5).

L. Although this idea of God being our Father is a ______ idea to many people, for others it is an ______ ______ they struggle to overcome.

M. If this metaphor could be rendered ______ by human sin, why would Jesus risk it?
   1. First, theologically, the Father-Son metaphor, better than any other, describes the relationship of Jesus to God, and Jesus’ own divine nature.
   2. Secondly, I believe that Jesus was trying to heal and bring wholeness to both men and women who have been wounded by their human fathers.

N. One of the most beautiful pictures that Jesus painted for us about what it means that God is our Father is found in the Parable of the ______ ______.
   1. We have a Father who gives us ______ ______.
   2. We have a Father who is ______ ______ when we ________.
   3. We have a Father who gives us ______ when we deserve ______.

O. One of the most _______ and ______ names God wants us to use for Him is Father.