

## **BeingAfrican, LLC Curriculum-Lesson 23**

### **Objectives**

**Upon completion of this lesson, students will be able to:**

- 1. Learn Ndebele names and their meanings.**
  - 2. Understand some life situations Ndebele names are deprived from.**
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### **The culture of Ndebele names**

Ndebele people have the habit /culture of naming children relative to what is happening in their lives at the time. Therefore most names tell a story in the history of naming the family. Here are the names of my own children to illustrate this:

- o Themba/Thembela(enkosini)- Meaning “Faith”- Faith and trust in God’s providence.
- o Njabulo(enkosini)-Joy in the Lord for giving me a son. Joy was my overriding feeling at this gift of a son.
- o Musa(we nkosi)-I felt that it was by God’s grace that I had this third child. The name is an expression of gratitude.

**Here are some common names often given with a religious reference to God-UNKulunkulu**

Luba-lenkosi/ Mbali ye nkosi	God's flower
Musa-wenkosi	God's mercy/grace
Thembela-enkosini	Trust in God
Nkosinathi	God is with us (Emmanuel)
Sinikiwe- yinkosi	Given by God

**Challenge Task:** Find out the meanings/messages behind other ten (10) Ndebele names you have heard among the people you know.

**Also answer the questions below:**

- o What does your surname mean?
- o Find out as many names of your extended family relatives as you can. Any Ndebele ones??
- o What do they mean??

## Word building-increase Shona vocabulary

Learn Ndebele names and their meanings. See illustration below and give own examples

Name	Meaning
Siphetheni/Silani	What do we have?
Busani	Rule
Nqobile	Victor

## The culture of Ndebele names

Here is a fun fact:

**Ndebele names carry meanings. Names usually refer to:**

- 1. Circumstances**
- 2. Feelings**
- 3. Namesakes**

## Names given based on different circumstances and experiences

Ndebele	English
Sazini	What did I know?
Hlekani	Laugh some more
Saziso	Make it known or make it clear. Disclose
Phiwani/Vumani	Receive/Accept
Siphiwe	The Lord's giving

### Names given based on feelings

Feelings	English
Musa	Mercy
Thabani	Joy
Thando	Love
Bongani	Gratitude
Themba	Faith

### Practise exercise

- What are the namesake Ndebele names in your family?
- What do they mean?
- What does your surname mean