

BeingAfrican, LLC Curriculum-Lesson 23

Objective

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

1. Learn Xhosa names and their meanings.
 2. Understand some life situations Xhosa names are deprived from.
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The culture of Xhosa names

Xhosa people have the habit/ culture of naming their 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:

- Lukholo – meaning “Faith” – Faith and trust in God’s providence.
- Luvuyo – Joy in the Lord for giving me a son. Joy was my overriding feeling at this gift of a son.
- Lubabalo (Babalo) – 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 – uThixo:

Nontyatyambo	God’s flower
Nceba, Nonceba	God’s mercy/grace
Themba/ Thembela	Trust in God
Nkosinathi	God is with us (Emmanuel)
Simnikiwe/ Nikiwe	Given by God

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

Also answer the questions below:

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

Word-building-increase Xhosa vocabulary:

Learn Xhosa and their meanings. See illustrations below and give your own examples:

Name	Meaning
Sinani	What do we have
Phatha	Rule
Qhawe	Victor

The culture of Xhosa names:

Here is a fun fact:

Xhosa names carry meanings. Names usually refer to:

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

Names given based on different circumstances and experiences:

Xhosa	English
Nontlupheko	Born during poverty
Nwabisa	Make them happy
Uyazi	She knows better
Yamkela	Receive/ Accept
Siphiwo	The Lord's giving

Names given based on feelings:

Xhosa	English
Nceba	Mercy
Vuyo	Joy
Thando	Love
Mbulelo	Gratitude
Lukholo	Faith

Practise exercise

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