

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

### **Objectives**

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

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

Igbo 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 Okwukwe - Meaning “Faith”- Faith and trust in God’s providence.
- o Nkasiobi - God comforted me. A name given as a consolation from God over something that had happened.
- o Chizaram - God answered my prayers

**Here are some common names often given with a religious reference to God-Chukwu/Chineke**

Ifiri chukwu	God's flower
Ebere Chukwu/Amara Chukwu	God's mercy/grace
Okwekwe chukwu	Trust in God
Chisom	God is with us (Emmanuel)
Nkechinyere	Given by God

**Challenge Task:** Find out the meanings/messages behind other ten (10) Igbo 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 Igbo ones??
- o What do they mean??

## Word building-increase Igbo vocabulary

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

Name	Meaning
Gini ka anyi nwere?	What do we have?
Ochichi	Rule
Onye nmeri	Victor

## The culture of Igbo names

Here is a fun fact:

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

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

## Names given based on different circumstances and experiences

Igbo	English
Gini ka mu ma	What did I know?
Chi ochi ozo	Laugh some more
Mee ka amara ya Gosiputa	Make it known or make it clear. Disclose

Nabata	Receive/Accept
Onyinye Chukwu	The Lord's giving

### Names given based on feelings

Feelings	English
Ebere	Mercy
Anuri	Joy
Ihunanya	Love
Ekele	Gratitude
Okwuke	Faith

### Practise exercise

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

**Developers:** Can we build an interactive database of names and meanings per examples above? Can the participants add ongoing?