



## I Know Who I Am!

By Deborah Wassenberg

*It's important for children to know the truth about who God created them to be and how He wants them to live. Young Daniel and his three friends are a great example of this.*

### Warm Up Activity:

On arrival, give each child a blank name tag. Children write their name and personalise the tag in some way, either through decoration with stickers or drawings, or by the choice of colour used. Each child wears their name tag for the morning. *(Leaders, too!)*

### Song Suggestions:

- The Same Hands (Jana Alayra)
- Friend of God (Kid's Worship Ultimate Collection)
- Love Won't Let Me Down (chapelhill kids)
- This is Living (Hillsong Kids)

### Bible Lesson: Daniel in Nebuchadnezzar's Court

Bible Reference: Daniel 1:1-21

*Illustrations for this lesson can be found at Free Bible Images. You can download their PowerPoint or make the pictures into Flashcards.*

### Visuals:

1. Name tag 'Hello, my name is...'
2. Daniel and his friends.
3. Nebuchadnezzar
4. The boys in Babylon
5. The king's food and wine
6. The boys' vegetables and water
7. The young men tested by Nebuchadnezzar
8. Daniel

## Words:

1. Hello. My name is (*refer to your own name tag*).  
I see you're wearing a name tag, too.  
I'm glad you know your name.  
Names are useful.  
It's much nicer for Mum or Dad to use your name rather than to call out:  
'Dinner's ready thingummybob.'  
'Have a nice day at school who-si-whatsit.'  
Your parents put a lot of thought into your name  
and probably looked up what it meant, too.  
They may have named you in honour of someone.  
Do you know what your name means?  
Were you named after someone in your family?  
(*Discuss with the children*)  
So, how would you like it if your name was changed and  
there was nothing you could do about it?  
That's what happened to four young Jewish men.  
Their names were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.
2. Three of those names may seem a little unusual to you,  
but all four were wonderful names because each name  
contained the name of God.  
Daniel's name ended in 'el' which represented the  
Hebrew word for God, 'Elohim'.  
Mishael's name ended in 'el', too.  
Hananiah and Azariah's names ended in 'ah' which came from 'Yah', the  
shortened form of God's personal name, 'Yahweh'.  
'Yahweh' means 'I AM'.  
So the boy's parents had chosen great names for their sons,  
names that connected them to faith in God.
3. Nebuchadnezzar, the king of the Babylonian empire, invaded the city of Jerusalem.  
When he returned to his kingdom, he instructed his servant Ashpenaz to bring  
boy prisoners to serve in his palace.  
They had to be good looking and from noble Jewish families,  
gifted in wisdom, possessing knowledge, and quick to understand things  
so they could be taught the language and literature of the  
Chaldeans for three years. Then they could serve before the king.  
Daniel, Mishael, Hananiah and Azariah were around 14 years old  
when they arrived in the palace of the king.

4. Ashpenaz changed the young men's names.  
Daniel's name, which meant 'God is my judge', was changed to Belteshazzar, meaning 'Bel's prince'. Bel was a Babylonian god.  
Hannaniah's name, which meant 'Beloved by the Lord', was changed to Shadrach, meaning 'illuminated by Sun-god'.  
Mishael's name, which meant 'Who is as God', was changed to Meshach, which meant 'Who is like Shach', the name of a Babylonian goddess.  
Azariah's name, which meant 'The Lord is my help', was changed to Abed-Nego, which meant 'Servant of Nego'. Another Babylonian god.  
Now the boy's names had nothing to do with their God, their names were connected to Babylonian idols!
  
5. The king ordered the boys eat and drink the food and wine from his royal table.  
But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the king's food.  
He made up his mind that he would not pollute himself by eating food that had not been prepared in the Jewish way and had also been offered to the Babylonian idols.  
They could change his name but he would be faithful to his God.  
He requested that he and his friends be given vegetables to eat and water to drink but the guard in charge of the boys was scared.  
'I am afraid of the king who has assigned you this food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age?  
The king would have my head because of you.'  
The guard was scared of the king who had a reputation for being very cruel.
  
6. God gave Daniel favour with the guard and Daniel came up with a clever plan.  
'Please test us for ten days: give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink.  
Then compare our appearance with the other young men who eat the king's food and treat us in accordance with what you see.'  
The guard agreed and tested them for ten days.  
At the end of the ten days Daniel and his friends looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food, so the guard took away the king's food and gave them vegetables instead.  
God gave the boys knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning.

7. After the three years, the four young men were presented to king Nebuchadnezzar. The king talked with all the prisoners and no one impressed him as much as Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. So they entered royal service and whenever the king consulted them, he found them ten times more capable than any of the magicians and enchanters in his entire kingdom.
  
8. King Nebuchadnezzar captured Daniel and his friends.  
He brought the boys into his world.  
He made them change their names.  
He was determined to make the boys forget God and to forget their Hebrew traditions.  
To forget who they really were and conform to the ways and gods of the Babylonian world.  
But the boys remained faithful to the one true God.  
It did not matter what their names were.  
Because they stayed faithful to God, God's name was on them and they were blessed. (*Revelation 3:12; 22:4*)  
They were **in** the Babylonian world, but they were not **of** Babylon.

## Ministry to the Children:

Nebuchadnezzar wanted the boys to identify with his world. The devil tries to do the same with you. The whole world (this planet and the people who inhabit it) is under his control. (*1 John 5:19*) He wants you to be in this world and to identify with it. He wants to educate you in worldly ways and change the way you think. But you must remember who you are!

But when you become a Christian you are no longer of this world. You are different from the world. Just as Daniel and his friends were in the Babylonian world but were different. The Bible tells us we are from God and have overcome, because the one who is in us is greater than the one who is in the world. (*1 John 4:4*) The one who is in us is Jesus! Jesus helps us live in this world, forgiven and set free, so we can show people how amazing God's world is, and so they will want to be a part of His world, too. 'For God so loved the world, that He gave His only son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.' (*John 3:16*) *Altar call*. Now you belong to Jesus and will go to Heaven. You will see God's face and His name shall be on your forehead! (*Revelation 22:4*)

## Declaration: Read Aloud with the Children

I am in Jesus; He is in me; we are one.  
(John 17: 20-23)

I have the mind of Christ.  
(1 Corinthians 2:16)

I have been cleansed, forgiven, made new.  
(Psalm 103:12; Titus 3:5)

In Jesus, I am thoroughly loved by God and called His child.  
(1 John 3:1)

I am a new creation. Old things have passed away; all things have become new.  
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

I am a child of the royal family, an heir of the royal estate.  
(1 Peter 2:9)

I am a child of God.  
(John 1:12)

I am not condemned by God. He has made me righteous.  
(Romans 8:1)

I am holy and blameless in God's sight.  
(Ephesians 1:4)

I am a citizen of heaven.  
(Philippians 3:20)

As Jesus is, so am I in this world.  
(1 John 4:17)

I live under supernatural protection.  
(Psalm 91)

I have the peace of God that surpasses all understanding.  
(Philippians 4:7)

I can do whatever I need to do in life through Christ Jesus who gives me strength.  
(Philippians 4:13)

I am taught of the Lord, and His peace belongs to me.  
(Isaiah 54:13)

I am an overcomer.  
(2 Corinthians 2:14)

## Memory Verse: 1 John 4:4 (NLT)

But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.

### Hot Seat Bible Verses

Write the Bible verse on a sheet of paper. Cut the words or phrases apart. Stick a word or phrase under random chairs in the room. After the kids are seated, ask them to look under their chairs to see if they are sitting in one of the 'hot seats' (a chair that has a word under it). Whoever finds a word under their chair brings it to the front. The kids must arrange themselves in line, each holding up their word, so that the words are in the correct order. If you have a lot of kids, print the verse in different colors, and mix them throughout the room. Then all of the kids with a blue word under their seat must complete the blue verse, while the kids with a red word under their seat must complete the red verse, and so on.

## Morning Tea:

Prepare a fruit platter and cups of water and eat together. Remember to check for allergies.

## Game: Fruit Salad

Form a circle and sit down. Each child is assigned a fruit:

- Banana
- Grape
- Orange
- Apple
- Pear

A leader will stand in the middle of the circle and call out one of the fruits. All the children who were assigned that fruit will stand up, run around the circle, and sit down in their original spot. The last player to make it back to his or her spot will do a silly dance, or exercise, in the middle of the circle for five seconds. When the leader shouts, 'FRUIT SALAD', all the players must run around the circle and return to their spot.

## Craft: Declaration Booklet

Photocopy the Declaration Booklet, one per child, and ask them to colour and decorate it before taking it home to share with parents.

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I am a child of God.

(John 1:12)

I am not condemned by God. He has made me righteous.

(Romans 8:1)

I declare...

I am holy and blameless in God's sight.

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I am a citizen of heaven.

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As Jesus is, so I am in this world.

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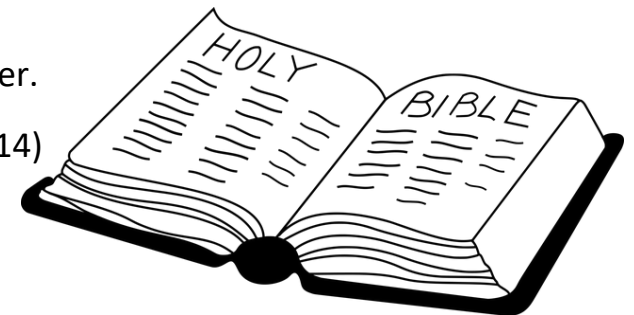
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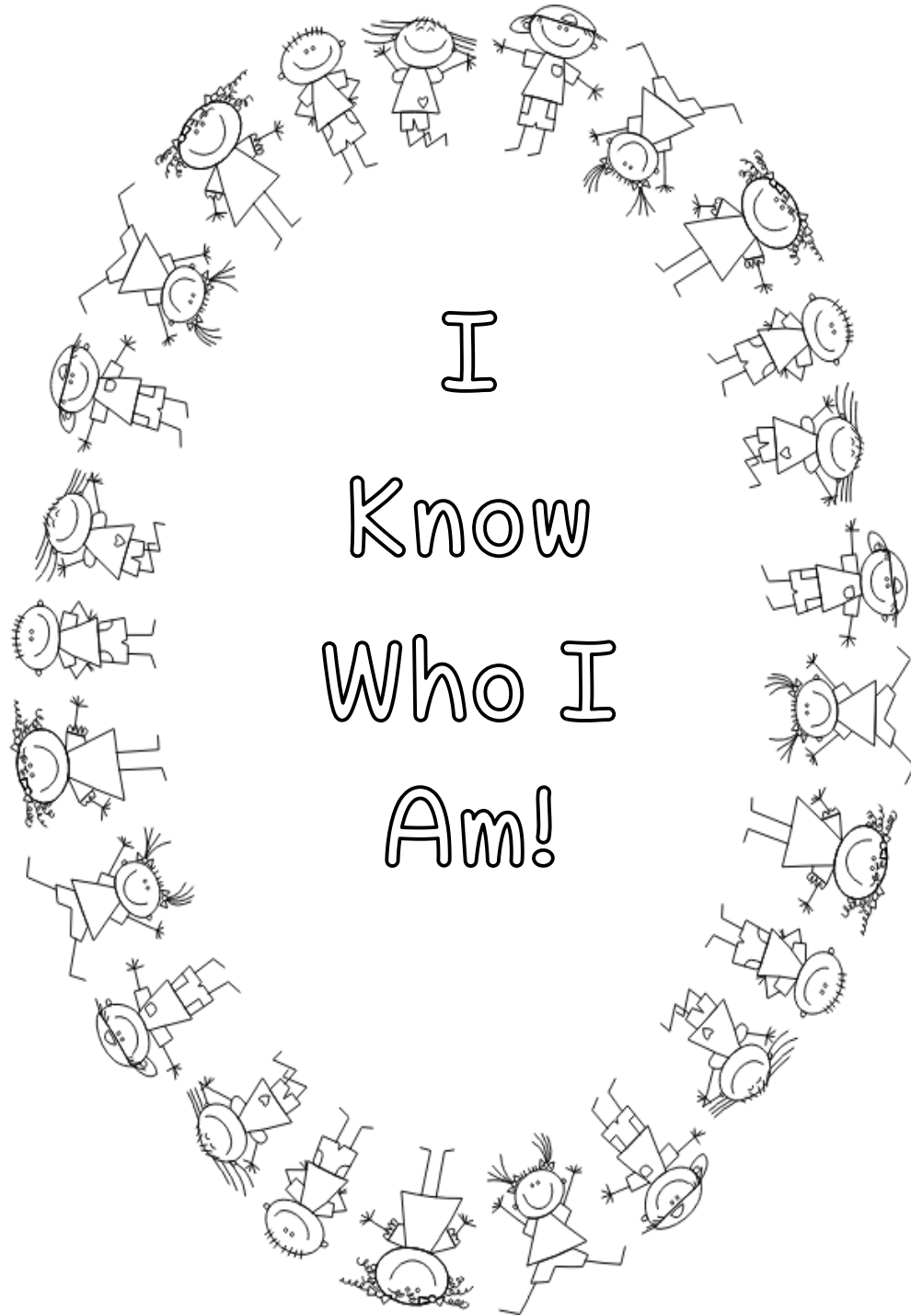
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