

NAMES

WHY IS A NAME IMPORTANT

LESSON 1:

INTRODUCTION: What is a name?

At birth, you are given a name by your parents. This is **YOUR BIRTH NAME**. You are then called by that name. Many parents simply name their child after a person they like, admire or because the name sounds good.

A newborn may be named after its forefathers/ grandparents, which are from the lineage of either parent. So **your name records your birth, who you are and tells where you are from and your connection to a family. (Family tree/ ancestry)**

Most names are given after important or famous people in history, or even after bible characters. And it therefore holds dignity and honour for you.

In our modern times, names are given of popular people such as movie stars, entertainers of song, music or sports.

In the Hebrew nation a child was named by its mother at birth. She was inspired to call out his name, **indicating his position in the family's inheritance** or the spot of the land he would settle down later in life.

The sweetest sound to a human ear is the sound of that person's name. How people love to have their names before the public. How they love acclaim. WMB

When you greet someone by name, it creates an impression on him/ her and it makes them feel important (or of great consequence) and being taken notice of. **So it is good to remember someone's name,** when you greet that person.

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Discussion: Is it important what name is given to you?

WHY IS A NAME IMPORTANT?

1. A name identifies you. It tells who you are and tell of **the unique person that you are.**

2. Your name expresses your character. It communicates a message. **It can show what type of person you are.** It describes your character / behaviour. And you live up to that name.

3. A NAME HAS A MEANING: GOOD OR BAD and it can **therefore influence your life** and the life of others. **A good meaning** may mean that you are influenced correctly and can be a good influence on others. A **bad meaning** may mean a bad influence on your life and on the lives of others.

Br.Branham also told us, it is important to have a name with a good or wholesome meaning.

He said to parents; never give your children names such as Elvis or Ricky. Elvis means cat; and Ricky means rat. (Note: If you rearrange the letters of Elvis. it spells evils.) You don't want names with a meaning like that.

4. A NAME CAN SHOW WHO YOU ARE CONNECTED WITH. That means your association or relationship with someone or a family; or your connection to God. Abraham received a part of God's name. **God wanted to show that Abraham was associated with him.**

5. **NAMES SHOW AUTHORITY OVER ANOTHER.** A person in power may change the name of his subjects so that they recognise his authority over them. THEY ARE GIVEN A NEW NAME. For example, King Nebuchadnezzar changed the names of the Hebrew boys when they, as captives, arrived in Babylon. The 3 Hebrew boy's names were changed to Shadrech, Meshach and Abednego.... Babylonian names. Daniel's name was changed to Belshazzar. Great effort was made to get the Hebrew young men to forget their Jewish upbringing/ roots.

2 kings 24:17; Nebuchadnezzar took king Jehoiakim captive and made his brother, king of Jerusalem instead, and changed his name to Zedekiah.

6. A NEW NAME IS ALSO GIVEN WHEN YOU HAVE OVERCOME IN LIFE AND A NATURE CHANGE HAS TAKEN PLACE. **A new name indicates A NEW BEGINNING or change in direction of life.... it indicates purpose or destiny... where you are heading.**

A FEW EXAMPLES IN BIBLE TIMES WHERE NAMES WERE CHANGED. (NEW NAMES WERE GIVEN)

1. To show the connection or relationship to God, God took PART OF HIS OWN NAME, Elohim, and gave it to Abram, and Abram became Abraham.

Genesis 17 Verse 5: Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be called Abraham

Meaning of Abraham: father of a great multitude or father of many nations.

(In the New Testament, Abraham was called the Father of Faith.)

Genesis 17 Verse 15: As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah

Meaning of Sarah – is princess

Abram and Sarai were old and had no more human strength and ability. Their methods at producing a child, the true heir had failed. Then God came on the scene.

Abram could not have the promised son until his name was changed and Sarai had nothing but a dead womb until their names were changed to.....Abraham and Sarah.

First THEIR NAMES WERE CHANGED,

& then

THEIR CHARACTER/ NATURE WAS CHANGED

From UNBELIEF TO FAITH IN GOD.

WHEN GOD CHANGED THEIR NAMES Then the Promise of a true heir was fulfilled.

LESSON 2:

A New Name given to you when you overcome

In Genesis 32 Verse 28: Thy name shall no more be called **Jacob, but Israel**

Meaning of Jacob – supplanter (deceiver or trickster)

Meaning of Israel – a prince, who has power with God.

Jacob was a deceiver before he was given the spiritual name of Israel.

After he wrestled with an Angel of the Lord, he was given that name of Israel after

He overcame and won wrestling with the Angel.

Activity: parents please give children little background how Jacob tricked his brother Esau

*[Note: The One in the tribe or of a nation who has the **birthright is the eldest son** (one born first in the family). it is an honourable position. **He has this right by birth to be the leader of that tribe or nation.** **There is, however, also a Birthright Blessing which, he would receive from the father before the father dies.** **The Blessing would endorse the birthright, sanction it or approve it, certify it..... Make it authoritative. He who has the birthright had to have the birthright blessing as well.]***

(Parents: Please also keep in mind that Esau at another time sold his birthright, which he despised to Jacob, who desired to have it at all cost..... Gen 25:27-34)

Genesis 27: Esau and Jacob were twin brothers. Jacob was favoured by their mother Rebekah. When their blind father Isaac called Esau to prepare him some venison, after which he would then receive the birthright blessing, Rebekah called her son Jacob, to devise a plan to pose as Esau and trick his father. He was to disguise himself as Esau, pose as his brother Esau and trick their father in giving the birthright blessing to him (Jacob). He put on one of Esau's garments; he put goat's skin on his arms so that he appeared as hairy as Esau was. Their father didn't suspect a thing. After Jacob received the birthright blessing from his father, Esau returned with the pot of venison to feed his father. It was then he learnt of his brother's trickery and vowed to kill him. Jacob then fled for his life to his uncle Laban's 'land', where he acquired many wives and much wealth. When he wanted to return to his father's house after many years, he heard that his brother Esau was coming to meet him with a band of men. Supposing that his brother was coming to kill him for his trickery many years before, he had much time on hand to think how he had deceived his father and tricked his brother Esau out of the birthright blessing. He became fearful and prayed all night on the other side of the river. That night Jacob met the Angel of the Lord, and wrestled with Him all night. As dawn was breaking he prevailed against (won the battle with) the Angel. **The angel struck him on the hip and said Thou shall no longer be called Jacob but Israel. His name was changed to Israel meaning Prince who**

has power with God. Jacob wanted only one thing in all his dealings ... he wanted the birthright with the birthright blessing. He thus became a limping prince all his life, because the Angel struck him on the hip. Therefore, **when did God change Jacob's name to Israel?** Not until he wrestled with the Lord; and not until he overcome. He walked differently then and **was a changed man.... no more fearful, but upright; and as the rightful leader of his nation.**

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LESSON 3:

LET'S LOOK AT OTHER NAMES IN THE BIBLE TIMES THAT WERE CHANGED.

Saul, the first king of Israel was a mean fellow.

Saul was a name fit for a king but not for an apostle. When God called Saul of Tarsus, He changed his name to Paul.

Saul means to break down and Paul means to build up. Paul became a real believer and worker in the church, An Apostle and Messenger to the Gentiles.

After Jesus called Simon, he named him Peter (Cephas), meaning little stone or little rock.

A BRIEF LESSON ON WHY ADAM CHANGED HIS WIFE'S NAME TO EVE.

Q & A

1. Who gave names to all the animals?
2. Adam had everything . What did God find Adam was lacking? A: A
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3. What did God do to Adam before he could bring him a companion?
4. Where did he find a companion for Adam.
5. What did Adam call her?
6. Why did he call her by that name? A: Because
7. The bible says they were both and
not.....
8. Who was the cleverest of all the animals in the field.
9. When the woman was deceived by this beast into disobeying God, thereby eating the forbidden fruit, what did Adam call her?
10. Her name means therefore that she is the of
.....

So she was called woman, because she was taken out of the man. Adam said, she is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh. Her name was changed to Eve by Adam.

The woman was called Eve, because she caused the fall of man and became the mother of all living generations on the earth. She was the mother of both Abel, the son by Adam; and also the mother of Cain, who the Bible says is of the evil one.

Activity: parents please explain to your children the meaning of their names.

Or.....Home work/ class work for children: **Write your name on a piece of paper. Find out from Parents or from your bible or dictionary of names, what**

the meaning of your name is. Who you were named after, Or anything that you can find out why you were named such a name.

Parents please allow the children to write down their names on a piece of paper, (and to say it correctly.) Then explain to them the meaning of their names....e.g. John means gift of God etc.

For the following
LESSON 4:
we will be looking at the word...

CHARACTER + WHAT IS CHARACTER

As you grow older and know and understand the meaning of your name, REMEMBER, that is your power that brings out **the real you.** (Character)

The End

God Bless you!

Quotes of WMB on Names

1. But the rapture is not the only roll call. There at the second resurrection, at the great White Throne judgment, will names be confessed before the Father and His angels. Now I have been told by those who know, that the sweetest sound to a human ear is the sound of that person's name. How people love to have their names before the public. How they love acclaim. But no earthly voice will ever sound your name as sweetly as will the voice of God if your name is in the Book of Life and remains there to be revealed before the holy angels. What a day that will be when we hear Jesus say, "Father, they confessed My Name before men in the days of their earthly pilgrimage. Now I will confess their names before Thee and all the heavenly angels."

SARDISEAN.CHURCH.AGE CA

2. Israel was called what before he had his name Israel? Who in the class can answer? Who was Israel before he give--was given that spiritual name? Now, somebody 'sides a preacher. I seen a preacher raise his hand up. All right, somebody besides one of you preachers... [Someone says, "Jacob"--Ed.] Jacob, that's right. And what--what caused him to receive this spiritual name? Somebody said something. [A brother says, "Prevailed with the Angel."] Prevailed with the Angel, and wrestled with Him, and said, "I'll not let you go until you bless me."

Hey, you want a spiritual name tonight? Just get a hold of the Holy Spirit and say, "Lord, I'm not going to leave this Tabernacle till you bless me." Things will look different when you leave. You be just as determined as Jacob was. You'll get a blessing.

ISRAEL.AND.THE.CHURCH.2

3. And Esau wanted to be a nice fellow, take care of everything, and do everything just right, and make everything just as... He was a real good legalist; Esau was. He wanted everything just right. And Jacob wanted one thing, and that was the birthright, and that's all he cared about

59-1223 QUESTIONS.AND.ANSWERS

4. Could you imagine a man, a blind prophet setting up, and his own son with a goatskin around him, like that, saying, "I am Jacob. I am Esau," rather. And he felt him; he said, "Why, it feels like Esau, but it sounds like Jacob's voice," and blessed him. And the blessing of God rested upon him, and him deceiving a prophet

55-0501E THE.FAITH.THAT.WAS.ONCE.DELIVERED.TO.THE.SAINTS

5. If there isn't something in a name, then why as long as Jacob was called Jacob, which means "supplanter, deceiver," that's what he was? But when he wrestled with the Lord all night, and the Lord changed his name, and about... when he was about sixty years old. He changed his name from--from--from Jacob to Israel, "a prince before God," and that's what he was.

Why was Abram called... had to be called "Abraham" before the baby could be born? Why was Sarai called "Sarah" before the baby could be born?

Why was Paul... or call... his name was Saul, but when he met Jesus, He changed him from Saul to "Paul."

When Simon was changed from Simon to Peter, which means "little stone." And--and all their **NAMES WERE CHANGED, IS BECAUSE WHAT YOU ARE CALLED IS SOMETHING ABOUT IT.** When you speak something, it identifies itself. I don't want to get in there, 'cause that's coming up next Sunday night, see, identification of a word. And, but now, we find these things so true.

63-1222 GOD'S.GIFTS.ALWAYS.FIND.THEIR.PLACES

6. Now, we find that when Joshua divided the inheritance to the people, each person was placed positionally, exactly the way these Hebrew mothers named those children, how they were placed in Palestine just at their place; Asher, Gad, and--and Naphtali, and each one, Judah. Everyone just placed in their position.

62-1122 RETURN.AND.JUBILEE

7. I got the word evil here. I got "Elvis" wrote down instead of evil. It's all about the same. The word Elvis means a "cat," and the word Ricky means a "rat." When you say "little Ricky," you mean, "little rat." What you call him, that's what he is. Your kid is named that, change it quickly, for the sake of the Gospel. Don't name a kid...

You never heard such names as that back in the Bible, or in any other age. It's the age, name for this age. There ever was perverted rats and cats, it's there.

65-0801M THE.GOD.OF.THIS.EVIL.AGE