

## **Bible Summary**

Daniel 1:1-7

Identity Theft

Daniel begins with some young godly boys being taken from their home to the evil empire of Babylon. One of the first attacks on these boys is the change their names, which reminded them of who they are in Yahweh, to new names that would undermine their core identity. Babylon is still alive and well today (Revelation 17-18) and it desires to steal our names and conform us to Babylon. We get to use the book of Daniel as a manual of resistance to identity theft.

Scriptures - Genesis 11:1-4, 1:26-28, 3:10-15; Matthew 19:12; John 15:1-5, 15; Matthew 28:18-19; Isaiah 49:16; 1 Peter 2:9; Psalm 139:18

## **Bible Questions & Application**

(These are meant to aid in facilitating conversation.

There is no obligation to run through **every** listed question.)

1. How did Sunday's teaching challenge your thinking?
2. What does it mean to be an image-bearer of God?
3. What falsehoods do you believe about yourself? When did you start believing these, and where did they come from?
4. Babylon was an evil empire seeking to create their own path to God and generate their own value & identity, separate from God.
  - a. How is our world today also like Babylon?
  - b. What does society ask us to surrender to be accepted? (Seeking God's favor vs. man's favor)
  - c. Why is it so difficult to speak the truth in today's culture?
5. How can we, like Daniel, reject the falsehoods of Babylon and uphold our identities as children of God?
6. What are some practical ways in which we--as individuals, as a community group, or as believers--can fight the pull to conform to the world?
7. What are some ways we can love young people and assure them that they are image-bearers of God?