



I Know Who I am

Everything changes for Ben when he finds out he
can be excellent

I Know Who I Am

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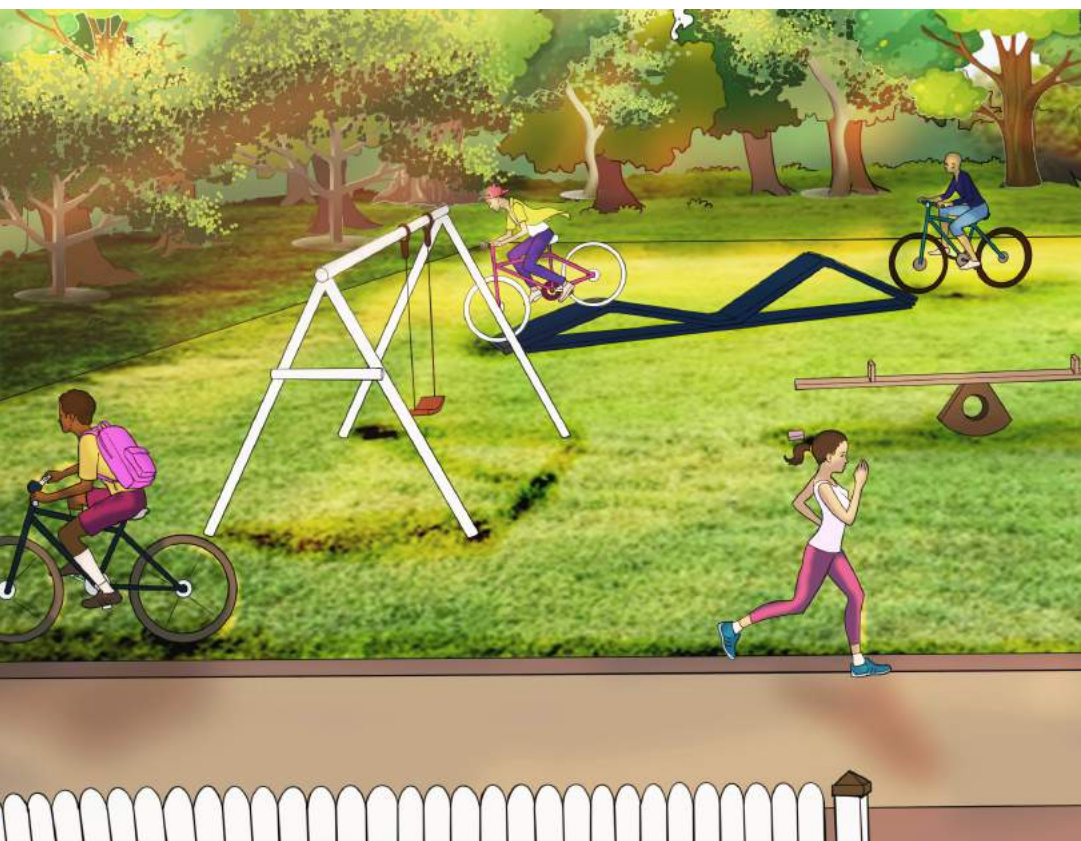
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CHAPTER 1

Everybody loved the park except Ben

It was a bright Saturday morning. Gradually, the Sun had begun to fill the blue sky with its brilliance and warmth. On weekends, after breakfast and home chores, children often gathered at the beautiful park at the heart of the community for fun activities and relaxations. The early dews had long evaporated with the arrival of the morning sunlight. The whispering trees became pronounced as they tossed back and forth to the rhythm of the morning breeze. The park was quite large - about four blocks.



It had beautifully manicured grass and hush shrubs. There were benches for people to sit, swings to ride, and race tracks around the field. And to ice the cake, the weather was perfect for a visit to the park.

The park was everyone's favourite place in the neighbourhood, especially for the children, who saw it as the ideal place to play, ride bicycles, fly kites and learn new games. Everyone loved the park; everyone loved to visit the park; everyone... except for Ben Hudson.





Meanwhile, Sam, the newspaper boy was in the neighbourhood. As usual, he rode his bicycle from house to house, delivering the morning papers. He was exceptional at delivering the papers. Unlike the previous newspaper boys who threw the newspapers in front of the houses as they rode along, Sam



stopped at each house and carefully tucked the newspaper into the mailboxes.

The Hudson's house was the last house on his delivery list. As he was about to drop the paper in the mailbox in front of the Hudsons' house, he noticed Ben sitting by the doorstep. He looked sad and lost in thought.



“Newspaper delivery!” Sam called out, hoping to get Ben’s attention, but he didn’t look up.

“Newspaper delivery!” Sam called out again, a little louder.

Ben ignored Sam and buried his head into his hands.

Sam had always known Ben to be melancholic. But today was worse; he seemed terrible and lonely. Unwilling to leave Ben down in the dumps, Sam pulled out the newspaper from the mailbox and walked up to him.

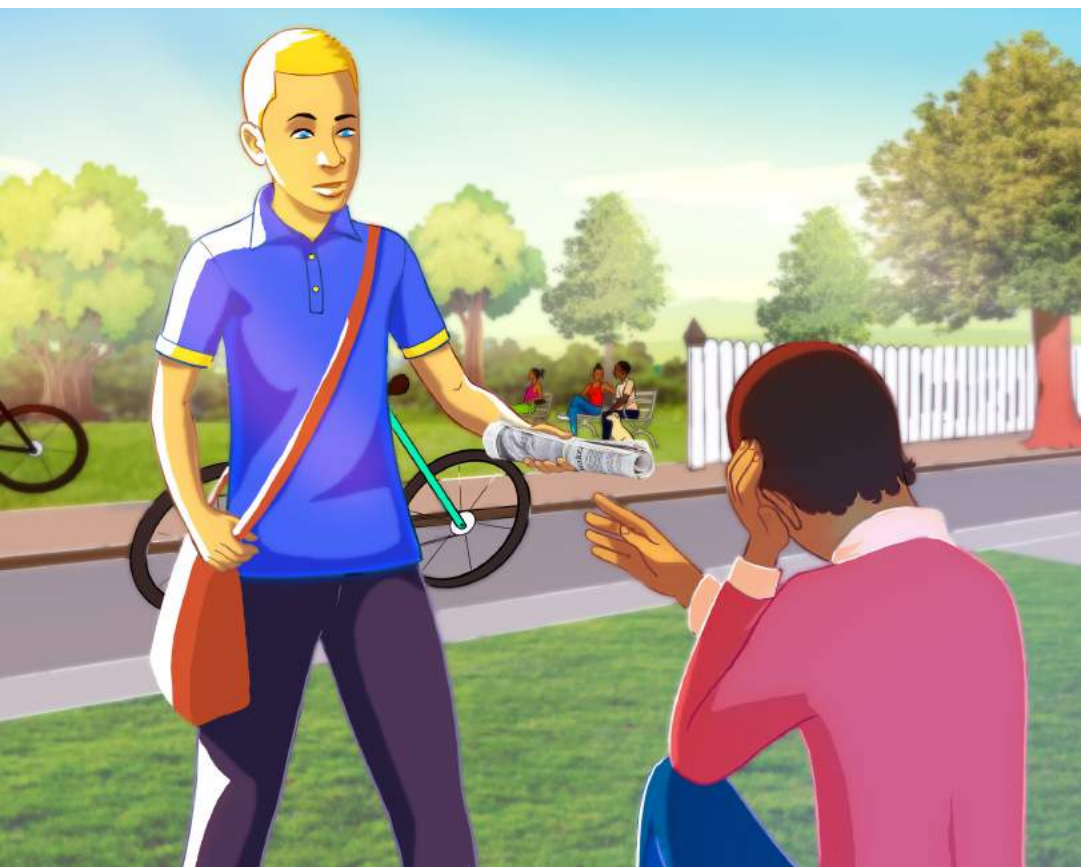
“Could you give your dad the morning paper for me please?” Sam requested politely.

Ben stretched out his right hand to receive the paper without looking up. At this point, Sam knew he'd have to chat Ben up to find out what the matter was.

“Hey Ben,” Sam said calmly, almost like a whisper. “Why are you unhappy morning? Did something bad happen?”

“Don't bother, I'll be fine,” Ben replied.

“C'mon, you can tell me,” Sam said persuasively.



After a long pause, Ben began slowly with tears in his eyes, "Nobody wants to be my friend," he said. "They've all gone to play and left me behind."

"Why?" Sam asked.

"They said I'm no good for anything," Ben replied. "So, they wouldn't want me around them."

Sam shook his head in disagreement and said, "I don't think what your friends said about you is correct. Not everyone gets it right at the first time. But with time, they'll turn out perfect. Everyone is gifted differently, and I know if you look inward, you might just see what you are good at."

Sam looked at his wristwatch; thankfully, he had some minutes to spare before heading back to the office.

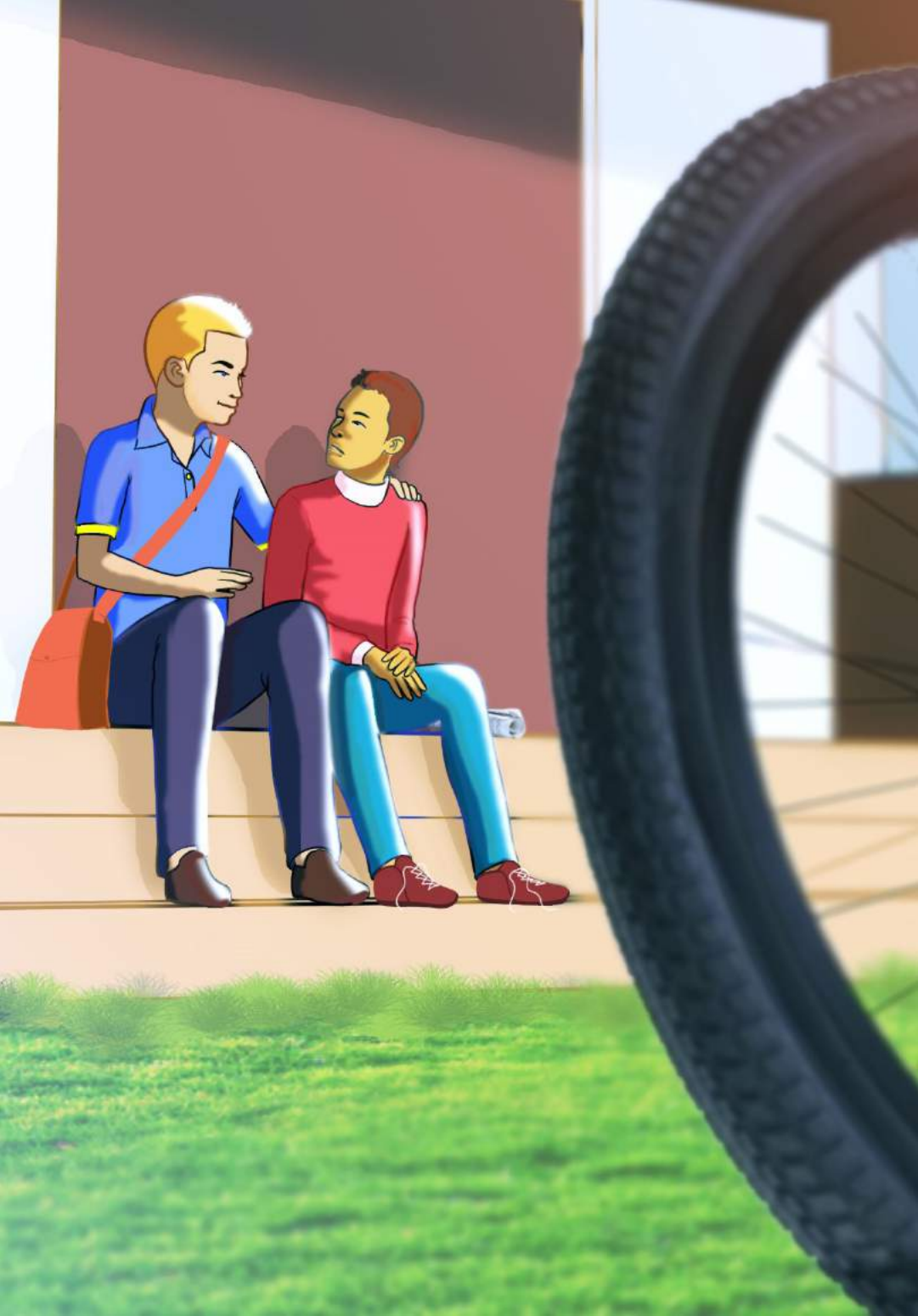
He leaned his bicycle gently on the mailbox, and then sat beside Ben.

"There was a time I felt the same way you're feeling right now," he said softly, "I was miserable, and had no friend to talk to." He paused and looked into Ben's teary eyes. "But everything changed the day I met Judy."

"Judy?" Ben asked, rather puzzled. "You mean the girl who lives next door?"

Sam nodded.

"Really," Ben was curious.



“When I lost my parents, I thought I had lost everything,” Sam said. “I had no support from anyone and couldn’t go on with my schooling. But Judy made me see it wasn’t over yet. She taught me to believe in myself. She helped me believe I can live out my dream.”

Ben listened carefully with rapt attention.

“I know you want to hear everything I have to say,” Sam said. “I’ll tell you another day. But you know what? I’m done with my high school and I’m in my first year in college. I’ve been supporting myself with this newspaper delivery job.”

“It’s good to hear,” Ben said.

“You see, I am living my dream now,” Sam said. “I discovered that no matter what I am going through, I’ll come out on top, because I’ve come to know who I am.”

“So, what should I do now?” Ben asked.

“Let’s start by having a word with Judy,” Sam replied.

“I don’t think she’d like to talk to me,” Ben said. “She’s smart, and she has a lot of friends who come to visit her. Why would she want to meet a loser like me?”

“C’mon Ben,” Sam said as he pulled Ben up. “You can’t be sure if you don’t try. She’s at the park now.”

Ben got up reluctantly, knelt on one knee, tied the lace of his sneakers, and followed Sam.



ACTIVITIES

Instruction: Which option best interpret the sentences below

1. Everyone loved the park; everyone loved to visit the park; everyone... except Ben Hudson.
 - A. Everyone loves to visit the park including Ben.
 - B. Only Ben loves to visit the park.
 - C. The park is everyone's favourite place but Ben does not like visiting it.
 - D. Everyone loves the park and they want Ben to visit it.

2. Ben ignored Sam and buried his head into his hands.
 - A. Ben ignored Sam because he does not like him.
 - B. Ben ignored Sam because he is sad.
 - C. Ben ignored Sam because Sam is late for his delivery.
 - D. Ben ignored Sam because Sam pesters him a lot.

Fill in the missing words in sentences.

3. He leaned his bicycle gently on the mailbox,
.....
 - A. and then sat beside Ben.
 - B. and then sat behind Ben.
 - C. and then sat on the floor with Ben.
 - D. and then stood beside Ben.

4. Ben got up reluctantly,....., tied the lace of his sneakers, and followed Sam.
 - A. stood on one foot,
 - B. knelt on both knees
 - C. stood on both feet
 - D. knelt on one knee

CHAPTER 2

Ben met Judy



Judy was by one of the wooden seats at the end of the park. She had just finished painting a picture of the sun beaming through the blue sky. Judy had been preoccupied with her work and didn't even notice Sam and Ben were standing right behind her.

"Yippee!!!" she shouted. She clenched her



fists in delight and punched the air.

"It's beautiful," Sam interrupted with a smile.

"Sam! Thank you," Judy replied with a smile.

"Hi, Judy," Ben greeted.

"Hi, Ben! Good to see you," Judy replied.

"It's good to see you too, Judy," Ben said with a smile.

“Ben would like a word with you,” Sam said almost immediately. “Meanwhile, I’ve got to run along to the office, it’s almost my log in, and I don’t want to be late. I’ll leave you two to talk.”

“Ok Sam,” Judy said. “We’ll see you later.” They waved Sam goodbye, as he left.





"I like your painting," Ben said to Judy.

"Thank you," Judy replied. "Painting isn't that difficult."

Ben was quiet.

"I have a spare canvas here," Judy brought out a canvass. "Would you like to paint a picture?"

"No-o...ehm, I mean, I can't," Ben stammered.

"I can help you if you wouldn't mind," Judy said politely.

“Sam said I could talk with you,” Ben said, changing the subject of discussion.

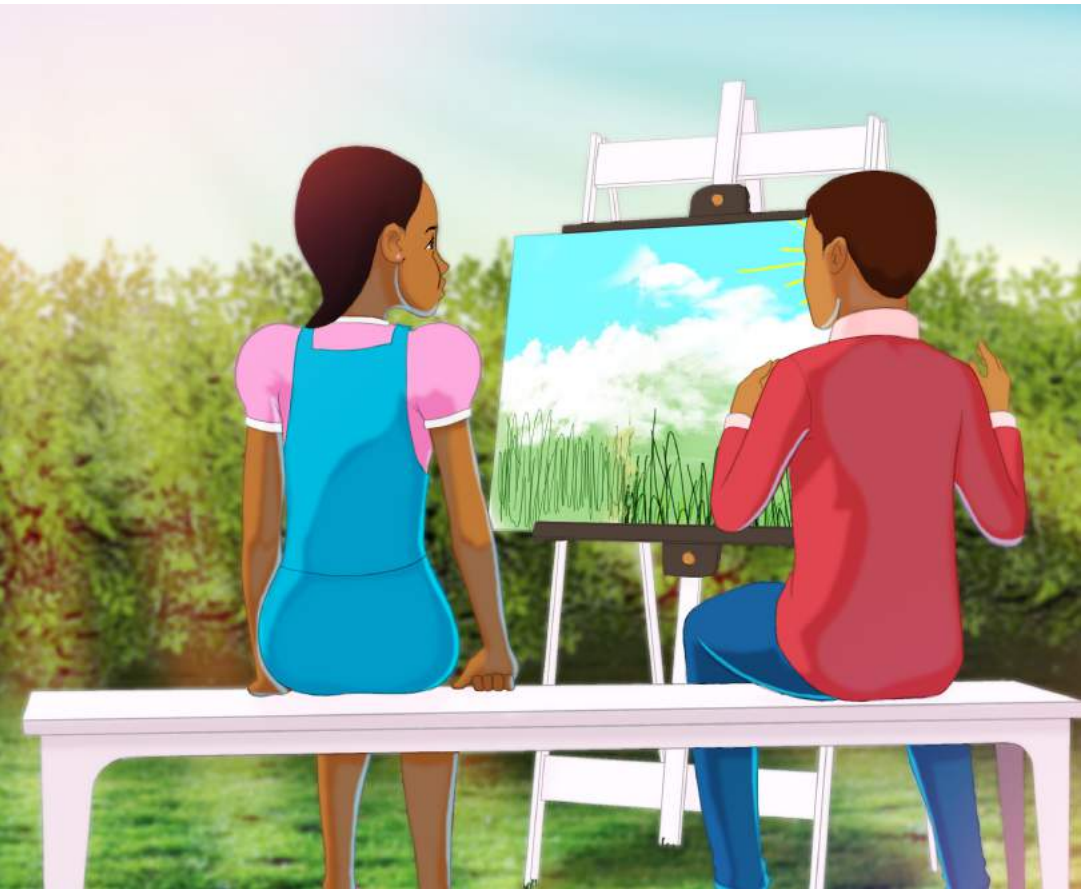
“But you haven’t agreed to try your hands on painting,” Judy said.

“Yes, I know,” Ben replied. “I’ll give a try next time.”

“Ok,” Judy agreed.

“Actually,” Ben hesitated. “That’s why Sam brought me to you.”

“What’s it about?” Judy asked.





“The park is a nice place to visit,” Ben started. “But I don’t like coming here with my friends. I kinda mess things up. And now they wouldn’t want me around them anymore because I’m no good to them.”

“Is that why you think you’re no good?” Judy asked.



“That’s not all,” Ben continued sadly. “My grades in school are poor. I can’t solve simple Math questions; I can’t read without jumbling the words; I can’t compete with my friends in the sports, or play any musical instrument ... I can’t even ride my bicycle without falling off it!”

Judy hung her canvas on its easel and

beckoned to Ben to sit with her.

“What your friends say about you isn’t who you are,” she said calmly. “You say you make a mess of things, isn’t it?”

Ben nodded.

“But the way I see things, everyone makes a mess of things at the first try. They get along with time until they perfect what they are at,” Judy said.

“Really?” Ben said rhetorically. “But my friends said I’m no good.”

“No one will tell you who you are until you tell yourself who you are,” Judy said encouragingly.

“God created you in His image and likeness,” Judy continued. “That means you’re exactly like God because you’re His excellent handiwork - the best of all His creations.”

“I’ve never heard that before,” Ben said, with a surprising look.

“As God’s child,” Judy went on, “you can things excellently, because excellence is in your nature.”

“If I have excellence in me, why am I not doing things excellently?” Ben asked.

“You’ve not come to know who you are,” Judy replied.



Ben looked a little puzzled.

“God made you, and so you’re God’s offspring,” Judy said. “That’s who you are. Don’t let anyone or the situation you in tell you otherwise.”

“So, how do I start... I mean, hmm?” Ben asked.

“Let God express Himself through you,” Judy said.

“How?” Ben asked.

“First, invite Jesus into your heart,” Judy said. “Make Him your Lord and Saviour, then, He’ll inspire excellence in you.”

Ben was excited as he invited Jesus to be his Saviour. Even though the experience was new to him, he realised he was no longer the same person anymore.

They spent the morning talking together. Ben realised it was possible to be excellent, even in little things. Then he made up his mind to be all that God’s Word had said about him.

Judy saw Ben off to his house, and invited him and promised to visit him the next day.

ACTIVITIES

Instruction: Choose the opposite in meaning to the underlined words in the sentences below.

1. Judy had been preoccupied with her work and didn't even notice Sam and Ben were standing right behind her.
 - A. involved
 - B. engrossed
 - C. careless
 - D. thoughtful
2. Judy hung her canvas on its easel and beckoned to Ben to sit with her.
 - A. dismissed
 - B. signaled
 - C. motioned
 - D. waved

Instruction: Choose the option that correctly arranges the sequence of the following sentences from the passage

- A. She clenched her fists in delight and punched the air.
 - B. She clenched her fists and punched the air in delight.
 - C. She punched the air in delight and clenched her fists.
 - D. She clenched and punched the air in delight with her fists.
-
- A. Ben realised even in little things it was possible to be excellent,.
 - B. Even in little things, Ben realised it was possible to be excellent.
 - C. Ben, even in little things, realised it was possible to be excellent.
 - D. Ben realised it was possible to be excellent, even in little things.

CHAPTER 3

Ben discovered something

Judy was at Ben's place as promised.

"I have a game I'll like us to play," Judy began. "I'm sure you'll find it interesting. The game is called Word Confessions."

Judy explained the rules of the game as they sat to play.

"I'll read some Bible verses about someone, and you'll tell me the word that strikes you most about that person," she said. "Then you'll use that word and its synonyms to confess to yourself."

Ben agreed.

Judy opened her Bible and read two verses.

"Daniel 5:12 reads, *'Inasmuch as an excellent spirit, knowledge, understanding, interpreting dreams, solving riddles, and explaining enigmas were found in this Daniel...'* and Daniel 6:3 reads, *'Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him...'*"

"The word, 'Excellent' strikes me most about Daniel," Ben said.

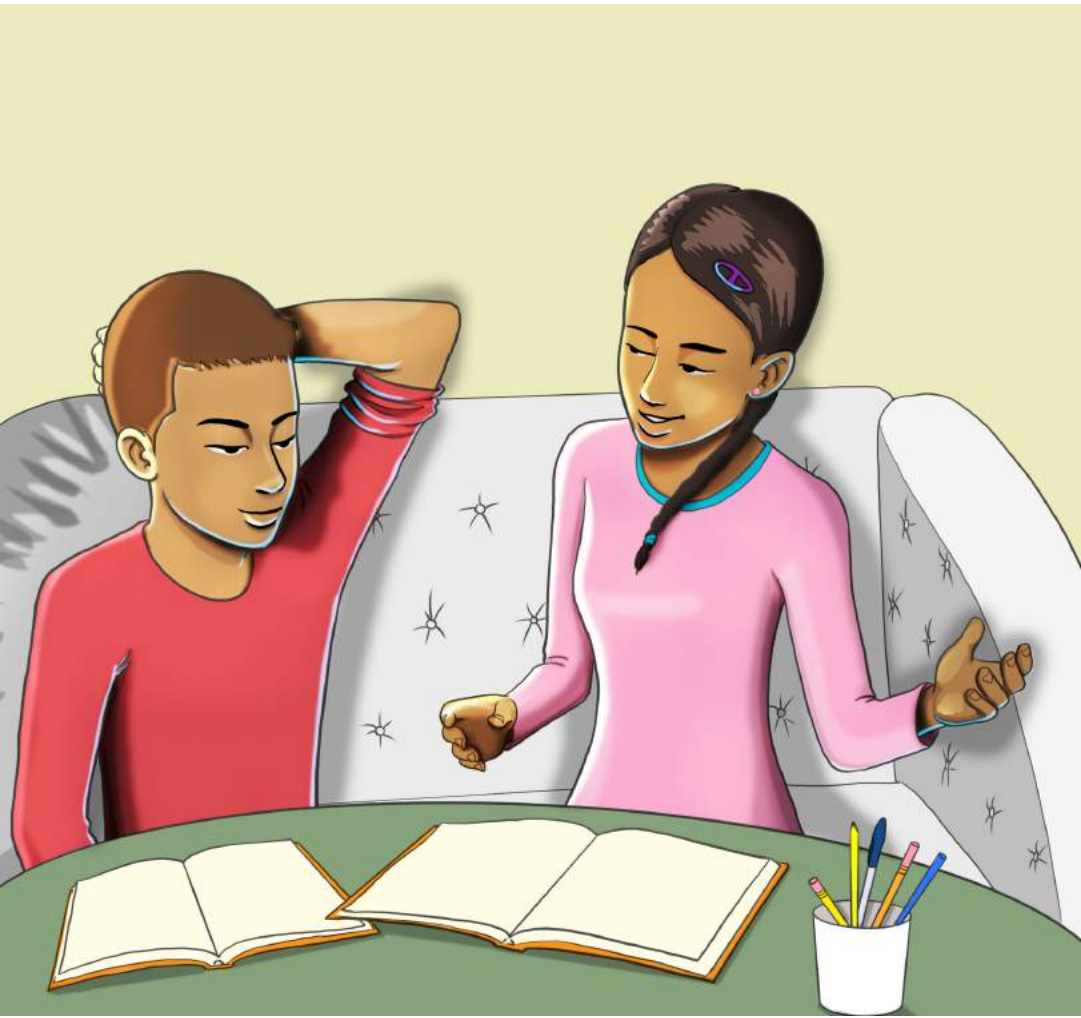
"Great job!" Judy said, with a smile. "Now,

make some confessions with the word and its synonyms."

"I'm excellent!" Ben declared. "I'm outstanding! I'm superb! I'm brilliant! I'm exceptional!"

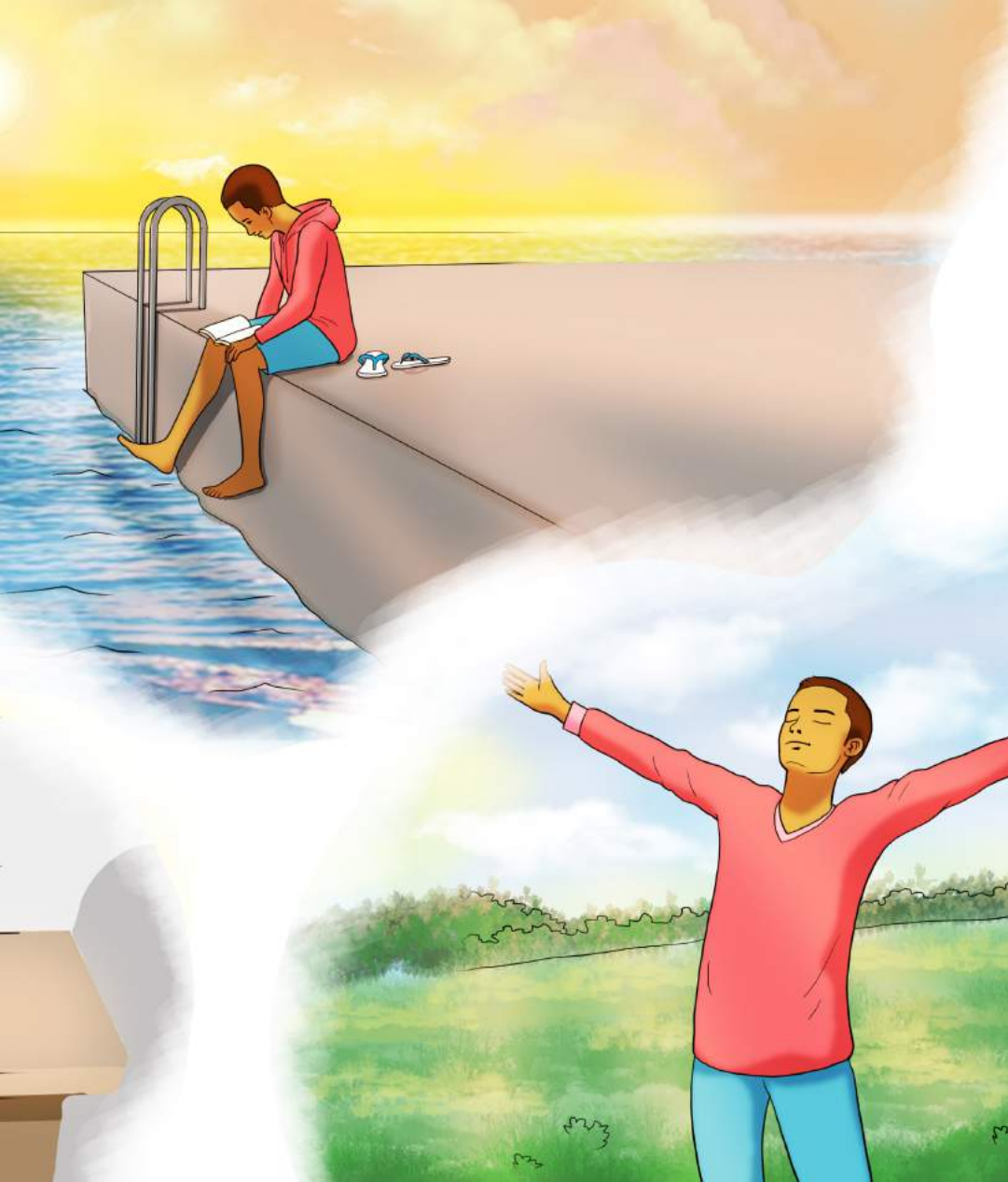
"Great work!" Judy remarked. "Practise more with these words, and act them out too."

Ben agreed to do what Judy told him.



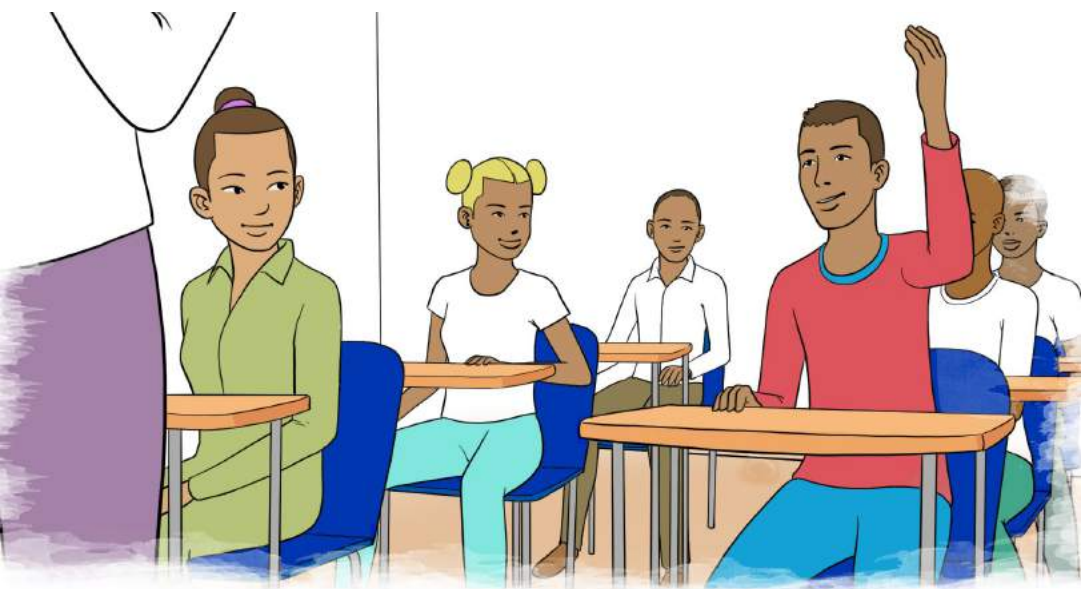


In the weeks and months following, Ben was diligent in studying God's Word and speaking it over his life. Sometimes, He'd make bold



declaration and say, "I know who I am; I have an excellent spirit and I do excellent things!"

Then, he gave more attention to his studies, and began to take more interest at solving Math and reading. He was no longer timid to participate in sports and the music class. At leisure, he rode his bicycle effortlessly. Soon, he became better at school, and with his studies.





He could solve sums and read flawlessly, and was no longer afraid to answer questions in class.

He was also good at sport and played the piano well. That year, he was one of the three students nominated to represent their school in an inter-school music competition, and they won.

ACTIVITIES

Instruction: Read the sentence below and find the underlined words in the grid. You could either draw a circle around or rule a line across the words.

*“Inasmuch as an excellent spirit, knowledge, understanding, interpreting dreams, solving riddles, and explaining enigmas were found in this Daniel...”
(Daniel 5:12).*

A	S	D	E	X	P	L	A	I	N	I	N	G
F	G	K	H	J	K	L	Z	X	C	V	N	B
N	I	N	T	E	R	P	R	E	T	I	N	G
M	Q	O	W	E	R	R	I	D	D	L	E	S
T	Y	W	U	I	O	P	A	N	F	S	D	T
S	O	L	V	I	N	G	A	F	O	G	D	N
Z	X	E	C	V	B	T	N	M	U	Q	R	E
W	E	D	R	T	S	Y	D	A	N	I	E	L
U	I	G	O	R	P	A	P	S	D	D	A	L
F	G	E	E	N	I	G	M	A	S	H	M	E
J	K	D	L	Z	R	X	C	V	B	N	S	C
M	N	Z	X	Q	I	W	E	R	T	Y	U	X
U	J	H	G	F	T	D	S	A	P	O	I	E

CHAPTER 4

Ben told his story

Finally, the school had come to the end of its academic session. The valedictory ceremony was announced. Ben was graduating from school.

The school had an old tradition to offer a scholarship to the best graduating student. However, this year's was different. Five students did exceptionally well, and the School PTA Board decided they should all be offered the



scholarship.

The D-day had finally come, and the ceremony was in the school hall.

Students sitting, teachers entering, guests arriving, hall clustering, aisles bustling. PA system echoing, parents greetings, the toddlers chattering... Everywhere was busy as the ceremony went on.







It was time. The Head Teacher walked up to the podium to announce the names of the five best students to receive the scholarship.

“Adams Santino, Johnny Edwards, Sisi Kofi, Juan Lee,” he called out the names, and paused, “and Benedict Hudson.”

Amidst the claps, the smiles, the hugs and tears of joy, Ben walked up the podium to receive his award from the school Principal.

Ben’s performance was the most outstanding in his set. As a result, he was the valedictorian at the graduation ceremony.

He stepped forward and held the microphone.

“Sam was a newspaper boy who delivered paper every day in my neighbourhood,” he started. “He didn’t throw the papers on the floor in people’s houses like what the newspaper boys I know do. His delivery was always on time, and he never missed to give a smile or say hello, as he went about his job. There was something special about him.

“One day, he met me sad and dejected. As always, he didn’t hesitate to stop for a few minutes to talk me up. Then, he introduced me to a friend who showed me what God thinks and says about me. That’s was the beginning of my self-discovery.





“By all standards, I was below average. I didn’t always do things right, and I thought I could amount to nothing in life. But as I studied God’s Word, I discovered who I am. I saw that I’m special, excellent, perfect and successful. I discovered God’s love for me was unending, and God believes I am something



even if I didn't see myself that way. So, I said to myself, I must be special, and I didn't care what anybody thinks or says about me. So, I decide I'm not only going to think like that, I'm going to walk and live that way. It became my mindset.

"Then, I began to do things excellently; I



became wiser, smarter and more intelligent. My grades got better, I can solve Math easily; I can read without jumbling the words; I can compete in sports and play any musical instrument. Guess what, I'm excited to tell you that I can ride my bicycle now and do a spin on it without falling off!"

Everybody in the hall laughed.

"I can boldly tell you," Ben continued. "I know who I am!!!"

Everyone in the hall chorused it, "I know who I am."

"I'll like to encourage you today," Ben said calmly. "If you would study God's Word for yourself; you'll discover who you are. You'll discover you are excellent, exquisite and perfect. That's who God says you are. When you act on God's Word, you wouldn't need anybody to tell you something else about you; rather, you'll know who you are and can boldly say, 'I know who I am!'"

"Thank you for listening and being a part of this graduation ceremony. God bless."

When Ben was done, everyone stood up and clapped.



ACTIVITIES

“Ben’s performance was the most outstanding in his set,”
(Page 33).

In not more than 100 words, summarize what Ben did that made his performance most outstanding. (Read pages 26 to 29 for a clue).

.....
.....
.....
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.....

In not more than 50 words, describe the following characters in the story:

Sam

.....
.....
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.....

Judy

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.....

ACTIVITIES

Words are powerful. That's why it is important to speak faith-filled words over your life always. Below are faith-filled words that will build you up in Christ. Remember, you can make more faith-filled words on you own.

My Faith-filled Words

I know who I am, and what belongs to me. I'm a new creation in Christ; an heir of God and a joint-heir with Christ. Christ is in me. In Him, I live and move and have my being. Therefore, I have the divine life, divine health and live in victory and prosperity. My life moves upwards and forward only.

The Greater One lives in me. I live the supernatural life. The strength, ability and wisdom of God are at work in me always. I am the blessed of the Lord! I am also a carrier of blessings. Therefore, anything I touch is blessed, and anyone I'm in contact with is blessed.

I am not ordinary! I flourish like the tree by the rivers of water. I produce excellent results. I'm a success because I have the Spirit of excellence. I am set apart for greatness, and I make progress in everything I do, to the glory of the Father. Hallelujah!

Know Who You Are

“Yes, dear friends, we are already God’s children, right now, and we can’t even imagine what it is going to be like later on. But we do know this, that when he comes we will be like him, as a result of seeing him as he really is.”

(1 John 3:2 TLB)

As a child of God, you’re the first and the best of God’s creations. You are God’s glory and it’s important that you know who you are so that you can act accordingly.

If your dad were the president of your country, I’m sure you would be proud to tell everyone you’re his son. Well, God is greater than all the presidents in the world. He is the creator of the whole world and you’re His child!

The Bible also says, *“However, you are chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, people who belong to God. You were chosen to tell about the excellent qualities of God, who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light”* (1 Peter 2:9 GW).

That is who God made you. Therefore, see yourself the way God sees you – special, excellent, beautiful and perfect. Don’t let anyone talk you down because you were born to be great. Know who you are!