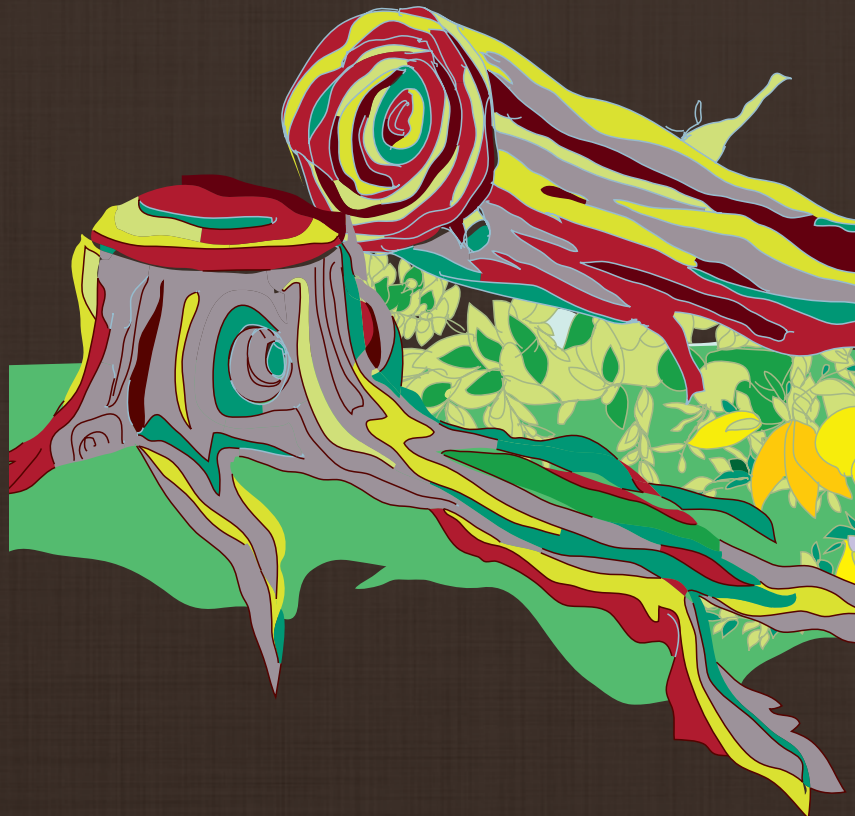


LESSON 74

The Glory Belongs to God Alone

DANIEL 4



BIBLE TRUTH

THE GLORY FOR ALL WE DO BELONGS TO GOD

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. **OPENING REVIEW** **5 MIN**
Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
2. **BIBLE STORY** **10 MIN**
Read Daniel 4 from the Scriptures or read story 74, "The Glory Belongs to God Alone," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** **10 MIN**
Can You Interpret the Dream?
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ large sheet of paper
 - ✓ candy for prize
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **15 MIN**
Whose Glory?
6. **WORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **15 MIN**
The King Is Humbled
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ colored pencils, crayons, and paper
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
None Can Stay the Hand of God
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ large, strong man

TOTAL 85 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Daniel interprets Nebuchadnezzar's second dream—Nebuchadnezzar has a second dream and brings Daniel in to interpret it. The dream is a judgment against King Nebuchadnezzar. Even so, God's mercy toward the king is still present, and Daniel urges him to repent.

God humbles Nebuchadnezzar—In this passage, we see that the root of Nebuchadnezzar's sin is pride. The king thinks his success is due to his own power, and he takes the glory for himself. Even though he has seen that there is a God who can miraculously save men from fire and interpret dreams and has been warned, Nebuchadnezzar thinks more of himself than of God. He does not understand that the God who did all these things is the same God who has given him his power. After ignoring Daniel's plea to repent, God fulfills his warning, and Nebuchadnezzar goes insane.

Nebuchadnezzar is restored—Because Nebuchadnezzar refused to humble himself, God humbles him. At the end of the time foretold by Daniel (probably seven years), Nebuchadnezzar lifts his eyes to heaven. His sanity returns to him and immediately he blesses, praises, and honors the Most High God. Nebuchadnezzar gives glory to God in a wonderful prayer and finishes with a declaration of worship. Now he sees that God is able to humble those who walk in pride and that it is by God's power and not his own that he rules.

Even the timing and length of Nebuchadnezzar's humbling was completely defined by God. The king did nothing to earn his restoration, which was by God's grace alone.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Glory

Glory is a word that has a depth of meaning. It can mean the honor, praise, renown, reputation, or accomplishment of an individual. It can also refer to the person's shining countenance. The Hebrew word for glory means weight, heaviness, or worthiness.

A person's glory might be in wealth, reputation, or possessions. If these things are lost, the person remains a person. God, however, is different: his glory is an integral part of himself. So, if God should lose his glory—his splendor, majesty, holiness, radiance, and beauty—he would cease to be God. God could not be God without his glory.

Ultimately any glory man holds is a reflection of the grace of God, and that glory ultimately belongs to God (Revelation 19:1). To attribute glory to an individual is to give to them that which belongs to God alone (Isaiah 42:8).

WHERE IS JESUS?

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read Daniel 4:27–33.

Daniel told the king to obey God's commands—to stop sinning and practice righteousness. But even if the king wanted to stop sinning, he would not be able to. And if he could stop sinning, he would still be guilty of all the bad things he had already done and would still need to be punished for his sin. What the king really needed was to give up and call out to God for mercy.

We are all sinners. We continue to sin no matter how hard we try not to. Plus, all the good things we do cannot cover up the bad things we have already done. Our only hope is to call out to God to save us. God has provided a way for us to be forgiven by sending his Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. It is only when we trust in the good work of Jesus on the cross that we can be saved.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Daniel 4 from the Scriptures or read story 74, "The Glory Belongs to God Alone," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Can You Interpret the Dream?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ large sheet of paper
- ✓ candy for prize

Before class, print out the following on large paper:

1. MOUTH
2. Taste Bad
3. Noon T2he

In class, ask the children to help you figure out what the signs say. Offer them a prize if they can figure them out. (They likely cannot.) Answers: (1) Big mouth; (2) Bad aftertaste; (3) Two in the afternoon

Talk about how these little puzzles were tricky but fun to figure out. But Daniel was called upon to interpret a dream that wasn't easy to figure out. What's more in Old Testament times when someone was called before a king to interpret a dream, they could be killed if they couldn't do it. Daniel needed God's help to figure out the dream's meaning, and God gave Daniel the interpretation. Daniel needed God to show him these things, just as we need God to reveal truth to us through his Word and prayer.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 15 MIN

Whose Glory?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ Bibles with concordances (If your classroom Bibles do not have concordances, copy the following entries from your own concordance for use in the class: dominion, everlasting, generation, and inhabitants.)

Read the story of Nebuchadnezzar's pride in Daniel 4 and then ask the children the following questions:

- **What things do kids your age boast about?**

(Accept any answer.)

- **What does it mean to give yourself the glory for something that you did?**

(We can and should acknowledge our accomplishments. If we win first place in a race, it is fine for us to tell someone that we won. However, we cannot tell them that we are great because we won the race or that the glory for winning the race belongs to us.)

Review Nebuchadnezzar’s prayer in Daniel 4:34–35 pointing out key words like *dominion*, *everlasting*, *generation*, and *inhabitants*. Then use Bible concordances (or what you’ve printed out) to compare the truths in his prayer with what Scripture tells us about God. Some key Scriptures to look at are Psalm 145:13–16; Isaiah 51:6; Lamentations 5:19; and Romans 9:20–21.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 15 MIN

The King Is Humbled

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ colored pencils, crayons, and paper

Have the children draw a picture of Nebuchadnezzar like an ox with long wild hair and clawlike fingernails and toenails.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day’s scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

None Can Stay the Hand of God

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ large, strong man

The object of this lesson is to help the children visualize the reality of Nebuchadnezzar's prayer in Daniel 4:35.

Ask for five volunteers. When they come forward, introduce your guest and explain that these five volunteers are going to attempt to beat your guest at arm wrestling. Of course they will view this as an impossible task. Go through the motions of all five getting beat anyway.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- **When you heard what the volunteers were being called to do, what did you think?**
(We thought it was impossible for them to beat {strong man's name} at arm wrestling.)

- **Read Nebuchadnezzar's prayer in Daniel 4:35. What did Nebuchadnezzar learn about God and "staying his hand?"**
(Nebuchadnezzar would have been the most powerful man in the world yet he could not stop God from doing what God wanted to do. God had complete control over Nebuchadnezzar. Here we see that God takes the most powerful man in the world and turns him into an insane cowlike creature in mere seconds.)

- **What bigger plan of God was Nebuchadnezzar a part of?**
(God was protecting and preserving his people who would return to Israel and later bring forth the Messiah. None can stop the purposes of God; none can stay his hand.)