SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON **WEEK 35**

God humbles Nebuchadnezzar

Daniel 4:1-37



DAY 1

God gave Nebuchadnezzar a terrifying dream • Daniel 4:1-18

READ 📖



EXPLAIN (9)

The truth of Daniel 4:1-18

A supernatural dream and men unburned by raging flames had convinced Nebuchadnezzar of God's unique power. But there was still something missing: a humble response. Nebuchadnezzar thought God was pretty great. But he still thought that he himself, as king of Babylon, was pretty great too (4:4). So God sent him another dream. Again the wise men failed to interpret the dream, even though Nebuchadnezzar actually told them what it was this time (4:6-7). Human wisdom was again worthless (Jer 9:23). So Daniel explained what the dream meant: Because of Nebuchadnezzar's great pride, God would humble him. God would cut down his pride like an axe chopping down a magnificent tree. But the band around the stump showed that God would preserve Nebuchadnezzar's rule, for the stump would one day sprout again (Dan 4:26). What was the purpose of the king's humiliation? To demonstrate that God is **sovereign**. He <u>rules over all</u>, including over the kingdoms of man (Isa 40:22-24). He bestows these kingdoms on whomever He wishes (4:17), so no one, not even great Nebuchadnezzar, should boast.

ASK ?



- 1. Who tried (and failed) to interpret the king's dream before Daniel was called? All the wise men of Babylon (the magicians, conjurers, Chaldeans, and diviners.
- 2. What was the dream about? A large tree that provided for the animals of the world was chopped down..
- 3. Would the tree be completely destroyed? No. Its stump would be protected.

DISCUSS (



- 1. God is kind: He showed Nebuchadnezzar a third sign after he was not humbled by the first two. What has God revealed to you to humble you before Him? How have you responded?
- 2. Ask your parents to help you identify any pride in your life. Are you humble enough to listen to what they say? Is it worth letting go of that pride? What does God do to the proud (Isa 13:11)?

DAY 2

God warned Nebuchadnezzar about his pride • Daniel 4:19–27

READ

Daniel 4:19-27

EXPLAIN **②**

The truth of Daniel 4:19-27

Getting chopped down does not feel good. Daniel was so troubled that he begged the king to respond rightly to the dream's interpretation. He urged the king to repent, turning away from his sin, and to show his repentance by showing mercy (4:27). Daniel urged this because he knew pride brings great destruction. Adam and Eve brought a curse on all creation when they proudly sought wisdom apart from God (Gen 3:6). The people at Babel were scattered and confused when they proudly sought a name for themselves (11:4). Pharaoh's kingdom was crushed when he proudly resisted God (Exod 12:29–30). Korah was swallowed up by the earth when he proudly challenged Moses (Num 16). Samson lost his sight when he proudly trusted in his own strength (Judg 16). Goliath suffered a shocking defeat when he proudly mocked God's people (1 Sam 17). Saul lost his kingdom, the Spirit, and his life by proudly pursuing his own will instead of obeying God's word (1 Sam 13:14). Be warned: pride leads to destruction (Prov 16:18).

ASK 🔞

- 1. How did Daniel respond to the dream? He was troubled. Daniel cared about Nebuchadnezzar.
- 2. After interpreting the dream, what did Daniel tell Nebuchadnezzar to do? To repent: to stop sinning and practice righteousness.
- 3. Why was all this going to happen to Nebuchadnezzar? To show everyone that it is God who rules. .
- 4. What other biblical characters were devastated because of their pride? Adam and Eve, the people at Babel, Pharaoh, Korah, Samson, Goliath, and Saul.

DISCUSS



- 1. What does God think about pride (Prov 6:16-19)? Can this apply even to "good" people who believe in God (Luke 18:10-14)? Is this a danger for you?
- 2. Have you ever suffered or been humiliated because of your own pride?

DAY 3

God humbled Nebuchadnezzar through His judgment • Daniel 4:28-37

READ



Daniel 4:28-37

EXPLAIN **(9)**

The truth of Daniel 4:28-37

It had been a year since the dream. Perhaps Nebuchadnezzar had forgotten. Maybe he thought it was only a bad dream, not a message from God. Either way, a year later he ignored the dream's message and boasted about his own power and glory (Dan 4:30). So God immediately made his mind like an animal's. Can you imagine if that happened to you? Nebuchadnezzar traded his palace for a field,

his officials for cattle, his banquets for grass, his rich robes for hair matted like eagles' feathers, and his elegance for nails overgrown and blackened like birds' claws (4:33). Nebuchadnezzar's proud head hung in disgrace. But after seven years, he looked to heaven, admitting that God was Might and he was not. So God graciously restored his understanding, just as He had promised. Nebuchadnezzar was thankful, not bitter, over his suffering, because God's discipline had rescued him from his own terrible pride. So Nebuchadnezzar proclaimed the message for all to hear: God humbles everyone who is proud (4:37).

ASK 🔞

- 1. Did the king humble himself before God? No. He boasted about all that he had done.
- 2. What happened to the king? Nebuchadnezzar's mind became like an animal's. His hair became matted like eagles' feathers. His nails became overgrown, and he ate grass like a beast.
- 3. Did Nebuchadnezzar stay that way? No. After seven years, he humbly looked to heaven, and God restored him as promised.

DISCUSS 🦃



- 1. You don't need to be a king in order to boast about yourself. How are you tempted to honor yourself with the glory that belongs only to God?
- 2. How long does it take you to admit that you are wrong? When your pride is humbled, are you thankful or upset?

DAY 4

Faith like a child • Matthew 18:1-4

READ |



Matthew 18:1-4

EXPLAIN ©

The truth of Matthew 18:1-4

Humility is so important because it is the attitude of faith. To have faith, you must be humble. You must see your weakness, your inability to save yourself, and your desperate need for Jesus. You must be like a little child (Matt 18:3). In other words, you must be dependent, as an infant depends wholly on its mother with nothing of its own to offer. So you must realize that you are weak, and helpless, and all you can do is trust, looking to Jesus to supply all your needs. When Jesus said this, the disciples had been arguing about which one of them was the greatest (cf. Mark 9:34; Luke 9:46). But they had it all wrong. It is not the super spiritual but the poor in spirit who are blessed (Matt 5:3). It is not those who think they are righteous, but those who hunger and thirst for righteousness who are blessed (5:6). So give up your pride. It might hurt to do it, but it is worth it. When you look to Christ as your only hope, then His blessing will overwhelm you with grace you could never earn.

ASK 🕜



- 1. What must you become like to enter Christ's kingdom? Like a little child.
- 2. In what way must you become like a little child? Humble, dependent, like an infant who trusts his parents to provide and is unable to survive on his own.
- 3. Why is humility so good? Because the humble heart is empty and ready to receive the grace of Christ.

DISCUSS S



- 1. How do your parents provide for you? How does God provide for His children?
- 2. Why are the proud excluded from God's kingdom? Is there sin in your life that you are too proud to confess? Now is a good time to humble yourself, confess, and enjoy forgiveness.

READ |

John 13:1-5

EXPLAIN ©

The truth of John 13:1-5

If you knew you had just one day left to live, how would you spend it? Jesus spend it serving his disciples. He humbly began to wash the disciples' feet (John 13:1, 5). To those seated around Him, this was unthinkable humiliation. This was a job done by the lowest ranking slave, not the honored guest. It was not even something the disciples considered doing for each other, for, as Luke points out, they were too busy arguing about who was the greatest (Luke 22:24). Yet Jesus took the position of the lowest slave in order to show what true love looks like. He did in spite of Judas' coming betrayal and His own coming suffering and death (John 13:2-3). At the time when you might expect the disciples to be caring for the needs of their Master, Jesus set aside His needs and concerns in order to care for theirs. In so doing, He loved "his own...to the end" (13:1). He loved his disciples to with full and perfect love. If you are a follower of Jesus, you should be marked by this same kind of humble, selfless love.

ASK 😯



- 1. What did Jesus do for His disciples? He washed their feet.
- 2. When did He do this? The day before He died on the cross.
- 3. Why were the disciples shocked when Jesus began to wash their feet? Washing feet was something done by the lowest ranking slave.
- 4. Why did Jesus wash His disciples' feet? To show that love is humble and selfless.

DISCUSS



- 1. Why do you do good things for others? Because you care for them and want to serve them, or because you hoped that you will be noticed? What can you do this week to show selfless love to your family or friends?
- 2. Your failure to love condemns you. But what has Christ's selfless love accomplished for you to remove your guilt (Phil 2:5-8)?

NEXT WEEK

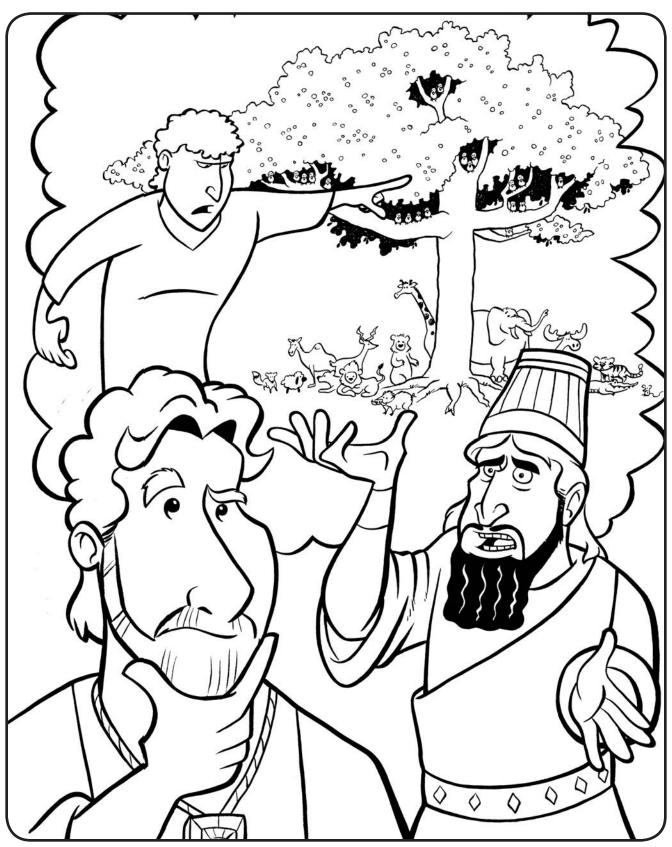
God judges Belshazzar for his pride

Daniel 5:1-31



X

God humbles Nebuchadnezzar • Daniel 4:1–37



God alone deserves the glory.



God humbles Nebuchadnezzar • Daniel 4:1–37



God humbles the proud.





God humbles Nebuchadnezzar • Daniel 4:1-37

Nebuchadnezzar's Warning

See page 42 of the Teacher Book Year 2, Book 3

Nebuchadnezzar's Warning

Stop Pride

"Therefore,
O king, let my
counsel be acceptable
to you: break off your sins
by practicing righteousness,
and your iniquities by showing
mercy to the oppressed,
that there may perhaps be
a lengthening of your
prosperity" (Dan
4:27).

Be Humble

Nebuchadnezzar's Warning

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Be Humble

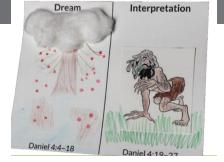


God humbles Nebuchadnezzar • Daniel 4:1-37

Dream Drawing

See page 43 of the Teacher Book Year 2, Book 3

	See page 43 of the Teacher Book Year 2, Book 3	
Interpretation		Daniel 4:19-27
Dream		Daniel 4:4–18







Dream Drawing

See page 43 of the Teacher Book Year 2, Book 3







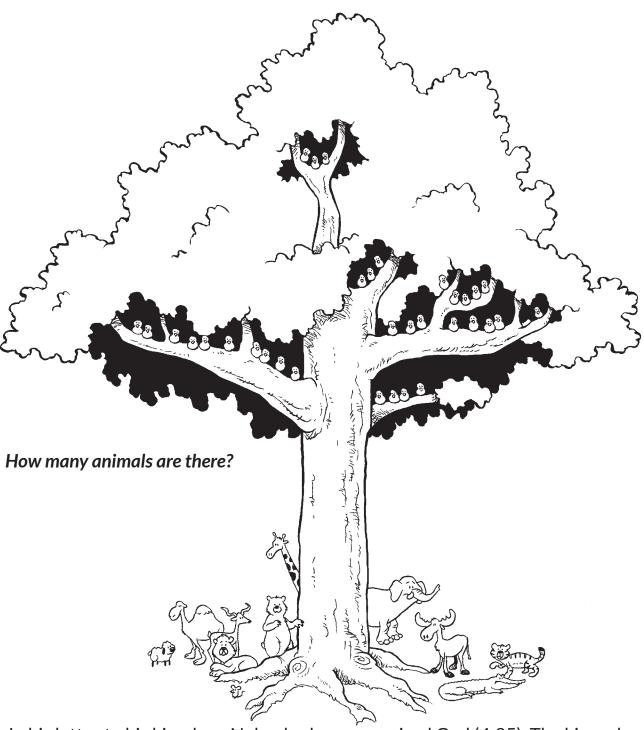




God humbles Nebuchadnezzar • Daniel 4:1-37

How Many Animals?

Count the number of animals in the picture below.



In his letter to his kingdom, Nebuchadnezzar praised God (4:35). The king who dared to exalt himself above the King of kings learned that all the nations are nothing before the LORD (Isa 40:17) for He sits in heaven and does as He pleases (Ps 115:3).

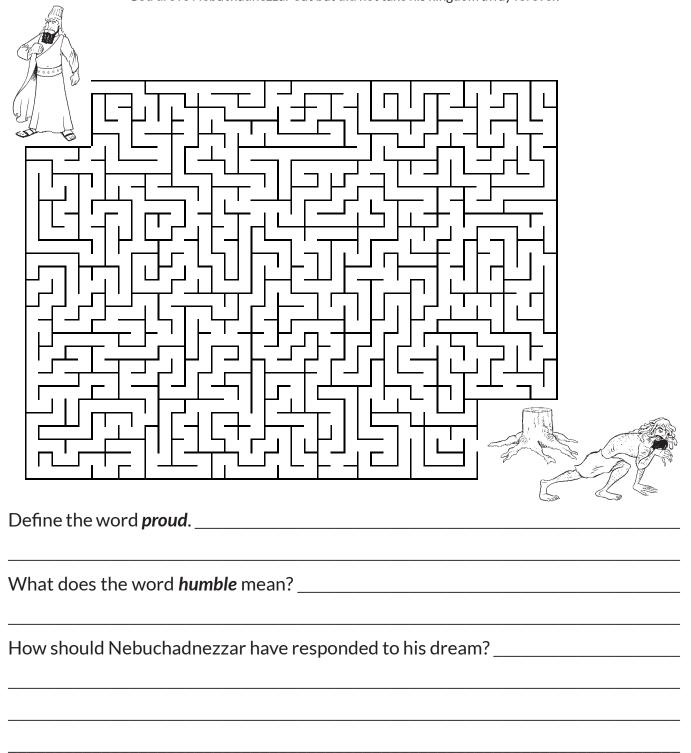


God humbles Nebuchadnezzar • Daniel 4:1-37

Maze

Nebuchadnezzar thought he was the best king and had built the best kingdom. Do you know why he was wrong? He was wrong because he gave himself the glory. God kept His word and humbled Nebuchadnezzar.

God drove Nebuchadnezzar out but did not take his kingdom away forever.





God humbles Nebuchadnezzar • Daniel 4:1–37

Crossword

Fill in the correct answers, one letter per square, both across and down, from the given clues.

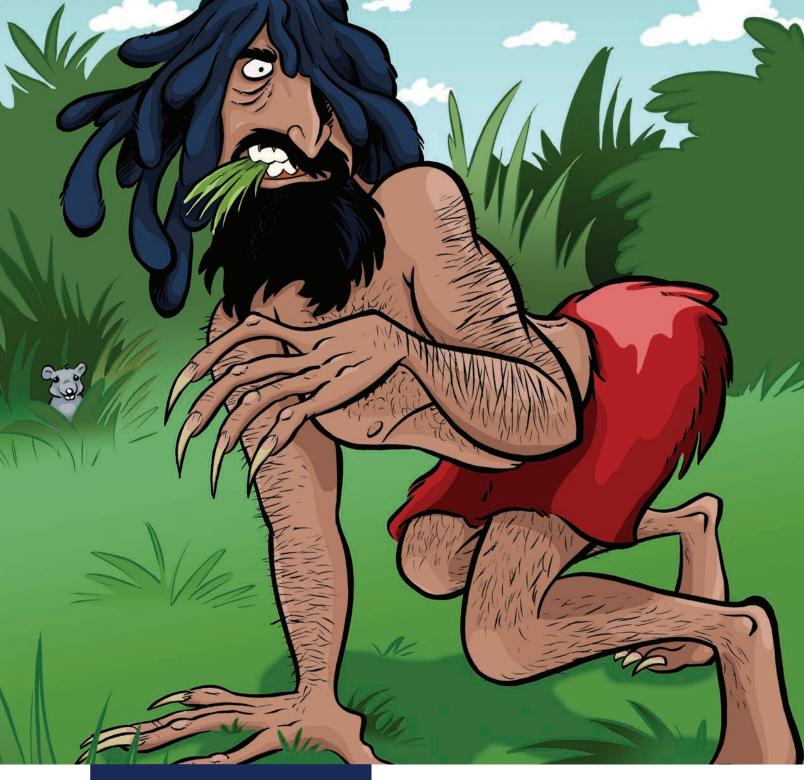
	Across
1	4. All kings and all people ought to God (Ps 76:11-
	12).
	5. to recognize one's sin and reject one's sin
	7. Nebuchadnezzar needed to himself under God's
4	authority. 9. For seven years Nebuchadnezzar acted like an
	10. what was left after the tree was cut down (4:15)
5	12. the king of Babylon
	6
7	
8	
9	
Down	
1. to vocally and emotionally proclain	n who God is and what
He has done	
2. Daniel's Babylonian name	
3. God opposes the but gives	
6. Daniel confronted Nebuchadnezza	
8. In Nebuchadnezzar's dream, the tr chadnezzar's	ee represented Nebu-
11. Nebuchadnezzar ended his testin	nony with a
(4:37).	



God humbles Nebuchadnezzar • Daniel 4:1-37

See What You Know!

AIVII			
	God alone deserves the glory.		
1.	True or False: Nebuchadnezzar's dream gave him peace.		
2.	Whom did God use to interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream?		
	Shadrach Meshach Abednego Daniel		
3.	After Daniel heard Nebuchadnezzar's dream, he was	(4:19).	
	confussed and excited happy and joyful		
	mad and upset dismayed and alarmed		
4.	The tree in the dream was	_•	
5.	Nebuchadnezzar would be punished by becoming like an		_ (4:25)
6.	What did Daniel ask Nebuchadnezzar to do in Daniel 4:27?		
7	What did Nebuchadnezzar do after the seven years?		
8.	Define the word <i>glory</i> .		
9.	Whats the difference between pride and humility?		
10	.How can you glorify God? How should you humble yourself?		



God humbles Nebuchadnezzar

DANIEL 4:1-37





God alone deserves glory.



"I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, 'What have you done?'" (Dan 4:34b-35).

Supporting Truths

- 1. Proud people glorify themselves instead of God.
- 2. God humbles the proud.
- 3. To be humble, repent from pride.
- 4. God's greatness is to be praised.
- 5. God rules over all rulers of earth.

Objectives

- 1. Discover who Nebuchadnezzar praised for his great kingdom.
- 2. Explain what Nebuchadnezzar's dream meant.
- 3. Describe Nebuchadnezzar's repentance.
- 4. List several things worth praising about God.
- 5. Identify three current rulers God is ruling over.

STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

God humbles Nebuchadnezzar • Daniel 4:1-37



Lesson Summary

Over the course of his life, Nebuchadnezzar had seen God's supreme wisdom and power. Yet in spite of these experiences, he praised himself instead of God. Nebuchadnezzar would have to learn the hard way that God opposes the proud. After seven years of living like an animal, he finally submitted to the king of heaven, humbling himself and praising God. Nebuchadnezzar had finally learned that all the nations are nothing before God, who does as He pleases.

Spotlight on the Gospel

Everything God does is for His own glory, including salvation. That is why salvation belongs to the humble. There is no room for the proud in the presence of God. But those who recognize that they are nothing apart from God are welcome in His kingdom. God graciously saves them so that they may proclaim His glory and one day even share in God's glory with Christ.



God protects Daniel's friends

Daniel 3:1-30



God humbles
Nebuchadnezzar
Daniel 4:1-37



God judges Belshazzar for his pride Daniel 5:1-31

Lesson Commentary

God alone deserves glory.

Nebuchadnezzar stubbornly resisted God's greatness and foolishly clung to his own. His two previous confessions of God's majesty and power were short-lived (Dan 2:47; 3:28–29). The displays of God's wisdom and power should have humbled him and led him to glorify God as King of kings. But Nebuchadnezzar held tightly to his pride, so God gave Nebuchadnezzar a second dream and urged him to repent through his servant Daniel. Still, Nebuchadnezzar refused to glorify God, so God humbled him. Finally, after seven miserable years, the humbled king would proclaim God's *glory*, *His honor*, *praise*, *perfection*, *and splendor*.

God gave Nebuchadnezzar a terrifying dream (4:1–18)

Nebuchadnezzar begins and ends his story by praising God (4:1–3; 34b–37). In the middle he explains why he abandoned his pride to worship the true God. He did not keep this experience to himself, but joyfully shared with his entire kingdom the exceeding power and greatness of God(4:1–3). This same joy is shared by every believer, who rejoices to proclaim the marvelous works of grace God has accomplished in their life.

THINK ABOUT IT
It is good to be humbled by God!

Before his humbling, Nebuchadnezzar's empire was peaceful and prosperous (4:4). But that peace was interrupted by a terrifying dream. In ancient times

dreams were thought to communicate something from the gods. Therefore, Nebuchadnezzar wanted an interpretation of his dream, but all his wise men failed to understand the dream's meaning (4:6–7). After human wisdom proved worthless (Jer 9:23), Daniel arrived. God would show once again that He alone knows all things, and that all knowledge is from Him (Dan 2:27–30). When we lack understanding, we should begin by fearing God (Prov 9:10), asking for wisdom (Jas 1:5), and investigating His word (Ps 119:99–100).

Nebuchadnezzar told Daniel his dream. It began with a vision of a tree (4:10–17), representing Nebuchadnezzar (4:20-22). This tree had grown so large and fruitful that every living creature rested under its branches (4:12). The creatures represent the people under Nebuchadnezzar's rule (4:22). The whole world was enjoying the abundance and splendor of Nebuchadnezzar's empire. But the peaceful vision was disrupted by a "holy one," shouting as he descended from heaven (4:13). This angel of God proclaimed the destruction of the tree; only the stump and its roots would be left, encircled by a band of iron and bronze for protection (4:15). The stump showed that Nebuchadnezzar's glorious reign would be almost entirely cut down, but the band showed that God would preserve Nebuchadnezzar's rule, for the stump would one day sprout again (4:26).

For seven years Nebuchadnezzar would behave like a wild animal, living outdoors and looking more like an animal than a man. He would be insane (4:15b–16; 23–25). What was the purpose of the king's humiliation? To demonstrate that God is *sovereign*. He rules over all, including over the kingdoms of man (Isa 40:22–24). He bestows these kingdoms on whomever He wishes (4:17). God crowns kings (1 Sam 2:8; Ps 144:10) and

dethrones kings (Ps 136:17–22). Though we fear Him, we can also be comforted—no matter how wicked earthly rulers might be, God is still in control.

THINK ABOUT IT He is to be feared by all people, even by kings (Ps 76:11– 12).



God warned Nebuchadnezzar about his pride (4:19-27)

The dream dismayed Daniel. He was so upset that Nebuchadnezzar had to encourage him to continue (4:19). Daniel was concerned because the dream foretold a difficult future for Nebuchadnezzar. So Daniel pleaded with the king to receive the dream and its interpretation. He boldly advised the king to repent, turning away from his sin, and to show his repentance by extending mercy to the needy (4:27). Daniel understood that God gives many warnings because He desires the salvation of all people (1 Tim 2:4). Therefore, he expressed genuine concern for

STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

God humbles Nebuchadnezzar • Daniel 4:1-37





THINK ABOUT IT True faith manifests itself in selfless acts of kindness (Jas 1:27). Nebuchadnezzar's spiritual well-being.

We also have been warned against pride through many examples. Adam and Eve brought a curse on all

creation when they proudly sought wisdom apart from God (Gen 3:6). The people at Babel were scattered and confused when they proudly sought a name for themselves (11:4). Pharaoh's kingdom was crushed and his son was killed when he proudly resisted God (Exod 12:29–30). Korah was swallowed up by the earth when he proudly challenged Moses (Num 16). Samson lost his sight when he proudly trusted in his own strength (Judg 16). Goliath suffered a shocking defeat when he proudly mocked God's people (1 Sam 17). Saul lost his kingdom, the Spirit, and his life by proudly pursuing his own will instead of obeying God's word (1 Sam 13:14). Herod was eaten by worms when he proudly took the glory for himself (Acts 12:23). Be warned: pride leads to destruction (Prov 16:18).

God humbled Nebuchadnezzar through His judgment (4:28–37)

Sadly, Nebuchadnezzar did not repent. One year later, while surveying his vast empire, he foolishly boasted about his own power and glory (Dan 4:30). Nebuchadnezzar was known for his massive building projects, such as a 400 foot high mountain terraced with flowing water and suspended plants. These famous "hanging gardens," one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, were built for his wife as a place for cool refreshment.

However, Nebuchadnezzar failed to give God the glory for these accomplishments. He took for himself the glory that belonged to God and God alone. While exalting himself, Nebuchadnezzar heard a voice from heaven (4:31). God's judgment was about to fall on Nebuchadnezzar. That very hour, Nebuchadnezzar's mind became like that of an animal. No longer able to live among men, he traded his palace for a field, his

officials for cattle, his banquets for grass, his rich robes for hair matted like eagles' feathers, and his elegance for nails overgrown and blackened like birds' claws (4:33). Nebuchadnezzar's proud head hung in disgrace.

But after seven years, Nebuchadnezzar lifted his eyes towards heaven, and the Lord graciously restored his understanding. The humbled Nebuchadnezzar "blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever" (4:34). Nebuchadnezzar realized

THINK ABOUT IT
The king finally
learned that all
the nations are
nothing before
God (Isa 40:17), for
He sits in heaven
and does as He
pleases (Ps 115:3).

that when God humbled him, it was an act of mercy. Though God scoffs at the scoffers, yet He gives grace to the afflicted (Prov 3:34). Repentance is a gift (2 Tim 2:25). Nebuchadnezzar proved his repentance by praising God, not himself (4:35).

Just as God had promised, the stump was not destroyed. God made Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom even greater than before (Dan 4:36). Even better, God had changed Nebuchadnezzar's heart (4:37). God's grace enabled Nebuchadnezzar to raise his eyes to heaven and declare the praises of the King of heaven (4:34, 37). He was thankful, not bitter, over the discipline he suffered, because he had taken to heart the warning—God humbles the proud, whether they are rich or poor, young or old, exalted or lowly (4:37). He opposes the proud, the boastful and arrogant, and calls all men to humble themselves before Him (Jas 4:6, 10). Why?

Because everything exists for God's glory (Ps 19:1; Isa 43:7). Christ lived and died for the glory of God (John 17:1–5), and He saves sinners so that they also may forever declare God's glory (1 Pet 2:9).

THINK ABOUT IT
One day, we will
rejoice to glorify
God, free from all
human pride (Rev
22:3).

Lesson Outline

God alone deserves glory.

AGES 3-5 LESSON OUTLINE



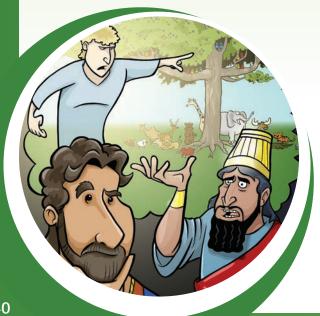
- 1. God gave Nebuchadnezzar a scary dream (4:1–18).
- 2. God warned Nebuchadnezzar about his pride (4:19-27).
- 3. God humbled Nebuchadnezzar (4:28-33).
- 4. Nebuchadnezzar praised God (4:34-37).

AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE



- 1. God gave Nebuchadnezzar a terrifying dream (4:1-18).
 - Nebuchadnezzar proclaimed his story for all to hear (4:1–3).
 - Nebuchadnezzar had a troubling dream but none could interpret it (4:4-9).
 - Daniel came to interpret the dream (4:10-18).

- 2. God warned Nebuchadnezzar about his pride (4:19-27).
 - Daniel was troubled because the dream was about Nebuchadnezzar (4:19).
 - Daniel explained that God would crush Nebuchadnezzar's pride (4:20–26).
 - Daniel called Nebuchadnezzar to repent and show mercy to the needy (4:27).
- 3. God humbled Nebuchadnezzar through His judgment (4:28-37).
 - Nebuchadnezzar did not glorify God (4:28-30).
 - Nebuchadnezzar became like a wild animal for seven years (4:31–33).
 - Nebuchadnezzar glorified God (4:34–37).



TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

God humbles Nebuchadnezzar • Daniel 4:1-37



Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



Ages 3-5 Lesson Questions

- 1. What did Nebuchadnezzar see in his dream?
 - Nebuchadnezzar saw a huge tree that gave food and protection for all the animals.
- 2. What happened to the tree in his dream?
 - An angel came and said that it was to be chopped down and stripped of its branches, but the tree would not die.
- 3. What happened to Nebuchadnezzar?
 - Nebuchadnezzar lived like an animal for seven years.
- 4. What lesson did Nebuchadnezzar learn?
 God alone has the glory, so be humble and praise Him.



Ages 6-11 Lesson Questions

- 1. Who could interpret the dream?
 - Only Daniel, not the wise men. This shows that God alone knows all things and reveals knowledge to those He wishes.
- 2. What did the tree represent?
 - It represented Nebuchadnezzar's reign, which was glorious but would soon be brought down.
- 3. Was the tree going to die?
 - No. Its stump would be protected.
- 4. Why was all this going to happen to Nebuchadnezzar?
 - This would happen so that everyone would know that the Most High rules over mankind.
- 5. What did Daniel tell the king to do?
 - He told him to repent, to give God the glory, and to be kind to the needy.
- 6. Did the king listen to Daniel's warning and humble himself before God?
 - No. Instead, he boasted about all that he had done.
- 7. What happened to the king?
 - Nebuchadnezzar's mind became like an animal's, and his hair became matted like eagles' feathers. His nails became overgrown, and he ate grass like a cow.
- 8. Did he stay that way?
 - No. Just as God had promised, after seven years, he lifted his eyes humbly toward heaven. His senses came back to him, and he praised God.

Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3-5





WHO'S IN CONTROL?

King Nebuchadnezzar forgot his position under God. To illustrate this, bring to class a puppet, and have the puppet introduce himself to the children and then begin telling them how wonderful he is and what great things he has done. Remind the puppet that he could do nothing without you. Pretend to argue with the puppet about what he is able to do without you. Then pull your hand out of the puppet and let the puppet hang limply. Read 1 Corinthians 4:7 and remind the children that we can do nothing without God. In today's lesson, we will learn about a king who forgot this and will see how God reminded him.

IN THE HAND OF THE KING

Read Proverbs 21:1 to the children. Demonstrate God's power over the kings of earth by directing the beam of light all over the room, wherever you wish.



BIG PRIDE AND LITTLE HUMILITY

Bring to class some objects that are the same except for their size. Show the children the pairs of items, and ask them what the difference is between them. Explain that when we are proud, we make ourselves out to be bigger than we really are. Humility, on the other hand, makes God out to be big. It focuses attention on Him and not on self. In today's lesson we will learn about a proud man who thought he was powerful and important but in reality was weak and unimportant.

VISUAL AIDS

Use the following objects to illustrate the lesson during teaching time:

- A letter (4:1-3);
- A pillow (4:4-5);
- A picture of a tree (4:10);
- Leaves and fruit (4:12a);
- Stuffed animals and bird nest (4:12b);
- A bull horn (4:13-14);
- A tree stump (4:15);
- A crown (4:17).

Nebuchadnezzar's Warning See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 2



NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S WARNING

See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 2. Materials: Craft sheet, yellow construction scissors, glue, and crayons.

Directions: Pre-fold a sheet of yellow construction paper into a tri-fold and tape the ends together. Pre-cut circles and rectangle from the craft sheet. Have the children color the circles red, yellow, and green (as shown below). Then have them glue the circles on the appropriate locations to create a stoplight. Color and glue the rectangle to the top of the stop light.



TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

God humbles Nebuchadnezzar • Daniel 4:1-37



AGES 6-8





SMALLER THAN WE APPEAR

Bring in a magnifying glass. Allow the children look at some tiny objects (ants, pill bugs, small rock, etc.) and note how much larger they appear under a magnifying glass. But they only appear to be big. Explain that when we are proud, we make ourselves out to be bigger than we really are. But when the "magnify glass" is removed, our tininess and unimportance is revealed. Tell the class that in today's lesson we will learn about a proud king and how God revealed his insignificance.

GOD RULES

Sometimes we forget who is in charge. This is not something new. In fact, Adam and Eve's first sin had to do with the same thing. They ignored God's instructions and thought that their plans were better than His. They acted as if they were in charge, not God. We also often act as if God is not in control. Sometimes we try to do things outside of God's timing. Other times we try to do it our way instead of God's. Today we will learn about a king who thought he was in charge. However, God humbled him, demonstrating His perfect power and authority.



THE FOOLISH, WEAK, AND LOWLY

Goliath, the Philistine champion, ridiculed the army of Israel (1 Sam 17:8–10) and David (1 Sam 17:43–44), but this mighty warrior was brought down with a single stone. God chooses the weak (David) to shame the strong (Goliath), so that no man may boast in His presence (1 Cor 1:27, 29).

REMOTE CONTROL

Read Proverbs 21:1 to the children. Illustrate God's control over earthly leaders with a remote controlled car. Ask the children if the car can drive itself on its own. Explain that the one holding the remote control directs the car wherever he wishes.

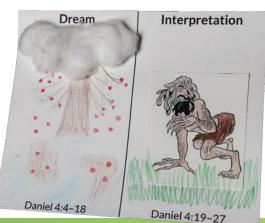


DREAM DRAWING

See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 2. Materials: Craft sheets, cotton balls, scissors, glue, and crayons.

Directions: Give each student a copy of the craft page. Read Daniel 4:4-18, and have the class help you brainstorm for ideas of what to draw to represent Nebuchadnezzar's dream (on the left side of the craft sheet). Encourage the students to be creative while drawing their own trees to match the description in the passage. Then read Daniel's interpretation of the dream in Daniel 4:19-27. Have children color and glue picture of Nebuchadnezzar onto the right side of the craft sheet.

Dream Drawing See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 2



AGES 9-11





DIVINE HUMBLING

Over the course of his life,
Nebuchadnezzar had seen
multiple displays of God's power.
He praised the true God for
revealing the interpretation of
his dream to Daniel (Dan 2:47)
and for rescuing Daniel's friends
from the fiery furnace (Dan
3:28–29). Yet in spite of these
declarations of God great power,
he stubbornly clung to his pride.
In today's lesson, we will see how
God humbled Nebuchadnezzar,
resulting in genuine praise for the
Creator of the heavens and earth.

WARNING SIGNS

After Daniel interpreted King Nebuchadnezzar's dream, he warned him to repent of his sin (Dan 4:27). Nebuchadnezzar should have listened to Daniel's warning. To help the children think about correct responses to warnings, bring in some pictures or symbols or warnings—various street signs, "Beware of Dog," signs, medicine labels, poison stickers, etc. Show the children each sign and identify the correct response to each warning. Then ask them what the correct response is to a verse such as Daniel 4:27.



AN EMPTY BOAST

The Titanic was a British passenger liner operated by White Star Line that sank in the Atlantic Ocean on April 15th, 1912 after hitting an iceberg during her maiden voyage from Europe to the United States. The Titanic was the largest ship on the planet when it sank. It was widely believed that the ship, because of its incredible size, was unsinkable. However, its sinking resulted in the deaths of more than 1,500 passengers and crew, making it one of the deadliest disasters in modern maritime history. Her architect. Thomas Andrews, was among those lost in the sinking.

WARNING!

Proverbs 21:1 says, "The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will." Illustrate God's power and control over the leaders of earth by filling a 9 by 13 inch pan with water and tipping it to direct the water to different corners of the pan. Use red food coloring to make the water easier to see.



SLOW LEARNER

Over the course of his life. Nebuchadnezzar had seen multiple displays of God's power, yet he steadfastly clung to his own pride (Dan 2:47; 3:28-29). Only after seven years as an animal did he finally repent and submit to God. You could say he was a slow learner. Yet, how many of us are weekly confronted with the truth of God's power and stubbornly cling to our own pride? Ask the children to explain what it means to repent. Then ask them if it's possible to confess God's power with our lips while resisting God's power over our lives. How many of us, like Nebuchadnezzar, are slow learners when it comes to pride?