

Nebuchadnezzar Is Humbled

Daniel 4:28-37

MEMORY VERSE

DANIEL 4:37

“Those who walk in pride He is able to abase.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Blank paper (one sheet per student), markers and/or crayons.

Five different shapes of cups or glasses, five saucers, 50 cents in pennies and small prizes to award the children (ie: pencils, erasers, etc.).

A sheet of construction paper for each child (any color), a “Humble Pie” template for each child, markers or crayons, scissors and glue stick.

ATTENTION GETTER!

Proud Animals

Give each child a blank piece of paper and markers or crayons. Pass out the paper and tell them to draw an animal that might make them think of pride or being proud. If anyone is struggling in coming up with an animal some suggestions might be a lion, tiger, peacock, eagle, or bear. After drawing have each child share their picture with the class and tell why they chose that animal as representing pride.

Today we are going to learn about a king who was filled with pride. He may have even thought he was as grand as a lion or as great as an eagle. But he is going to learn a valuable lesson in humility and how that **Pride goes before a fall.**

LESSON TIME!

Have you ever had a great accomplishment like getting straight A's in school or creating an art project that was fantastic? How did people respond? Did your parents and friends congratulate you and did they praise you in your efforts? How did you react, with humility or pride? It's not always easy to be humble when we receive praise or do something really neat. In this week's lesson we will learn about a king who fell because of his lack of humility and prideful heart. **Pride goes before a fall.**

DANIEL 4:28-30

All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar.

At the end of the twelve months he was walking about the royal palace of Babylon.

The king spoke, saying, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?"

King Nebuchadnezzar had just had another dream, but this one made him very upset and worried. He had called for Daniel to interpret the dream and now the dream was about to unfold. He had been warned that if he did not repent of his idolatry, pride and greed that God would remove him from his kingdom. But the king did not pay attention to Daniel's warning.

Now as this passage shows, the king did not seem to care about what Daniel had shared. He was walking about his palace and giving praise to himself. What Nebuchadnezzar had forgotten was that everything he had was from the hand of God. King Nebuchadnezzar's heart was filled with pride. Everything good in his life was because he was so great and majestic; at least that is what he thought. Have you ever experienced pride? **Pride goes before a fall.**

Pride is a very dangerous thing. Sometimes we become prideful, and we do not even realize it. We sometimes like to think that we can do everything by ourselves--that we do not need God's help. Maybe when we do something really good, we might be tempted to think that we did it because we are really wonderful. We must learn the same lesson God taught Nebuchadnezzar. God had made Nebuchadnezzar everything he was and had given him the kingdom of Babylon. Instead of thinking he was the best, he should have been giving the glory to God.

DANIEL 4:31

While the word was still in the king's mouth, a voice fell from heaven: "King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you!"

Imagine God does not even let King Nebuchadnezzar finish his selfish thoughts and words. He had taken credit for his success instead of giving God the glory.

God was rebuking this man because of his pride. Even as Christians, we can be prideful at times. We may think because we know a lot about the Bible or even because we are saved by Jesus that we are better than others. This is pride and it is sin and God will not tolerate it. We need to be very careful of pride. **Pride goes before a fall.**

DANIEL 4:32

And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses."

What Daniel had previously interpreted to the king was now about to come true. King Nebuchadnezzar was not concerned or fearful

of God at all up to this time, he was basically saying to God, “I am not fearful of You, nor do I believe this dream. I will continue living in sin against you for I am the king.” That was all about to change.

Could you imagine how scared he must have been? God was telling Nebuchadnezzar, “I have the power to give and take away.” But this was also showing how merciful the Lord is. He had warned the king in advance and gave him the opportunity to repent. He is the same today with us. God has given each of us the opportunity to know Him. Romans 1:20 states that through creation, God can be seen. Man is without excuse. Those who will not believe on Him will spend eternity separated from Him in hell. **Pride goes before a fall.**

Unfortunately it is often pride that keeps us from coming to Jesus. Pride was the original sin that Satan committed in heaven and he was cast out because of his pride. He was not content with serving God, but wanted to be God. Some people are like that. They don't want to serve God; they would rather worship themselves or the things of this world. It really all goes back to pride. **Pride goes before a fall.**

DANIEL 4:33

That very hour the word was fulfilled concerning Nebuchadnezzar; he was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws.

Imagine the humiliation King Nebuchadnezzar was facing. Here was a king who was used to dressing in the finest apparel and eating only the best delicacies. Now he became mad and took on the appearance of a wild animal.

God knew Nebuchadnezzar's heart; He knew the pride that lived in it and He knew what would humble the king. It is the same with us. God knows our heart better than we do and He will go to any length to save us. He already has with His son Jesus Christ. God knew that Nebuchadnezzar would be humbled by God's will and it was a lesson he was never to forget.

God is giving us an illustration of His power--not that He wants us to be afraid, but so we will honor and praise Him. He is showing us what happens if we give ourselves over to a prideful heart. It will only end in destruction. We need to be humble and serve the Lord with all of our hearts. If God blesses us, will we be selfish or bless Him in return by giving to others? King Nebuchadnezzar chose to be prideful and we see what the result was. **Pride goes before a fall.**

DANIEL 4:34-35

And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation.

All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?"

Here we see Nebuchadnezzar broken and living in the wilderness as a beast. But then one day he says, "My understanding returned to me." He was probably in this condition for seven years. He now is able to see God with a pure heart. His whole perspective on things has changed.

When he was king power and riches had blinded him. God had to pull him down to a place that he would honor God as being in complete control of everything. Nebuchadnezzar was able to see God's greatness; he did not curse God when he was taken from his kingdom.

How we respond to God being in control reveals where our heart is with trusting Him. We will not always understand God's ways (Isaiah 55:8-9), but we can rest in knowing He has a perfect plan and is in control. **Pride goes before a fall.**

DANIEL 4:36

At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my honor and splendor returned to me. My counselors and nobles resorted to me, I was restored to my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added to me.

Nebuchadnezzar repented and God restored his mind and his kingdom! More than riches, more precious than silver or gold, God allowed this man to see the splendor of God's ways.

God is so good. He restores us back to Himself when we repent. He wants to bless us and He gives us the opportunity to be restored and have a relationship with Him through His Son Jesus. We need to set aside any pride or love of self we may have and turn to Him. **Pride goes before a fall.**

DANIEL 4:37

Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.

Nebuchadnezzar ruled his kingdom much differently now. He saw that the King of Heaven was truth, and His ways were just. God is

the final judge and He would much rather bless us than judge us. But He rules in truth and He gives to those who believe in Him truth. He will judge those who won't honor Him as Lord and Master over their lives.

How kind God is. He loves us so much as to humble us when we are prideful. We are all like King Nebuchadnezzar when we worship anything apart from God. Sometimes God has to break us from our pride, but know that He loves each one of us so very much. He wants us to walk with Him and worship Him. We cannot do that with a prideful heart. When we turn to Him in humility and give our lives to Him, we will always find a rich and wonderful life. **Pride goes before a fall.**

Have a Slice of Humble Pie

Use this activity to reinforce the memory verse today. You will need a sheet of construction paper for each child (any color), a "Humble Pie" template, markers or crayons, scissors and glue stick. Have the children cut out the slices from the template and glue them in the right order onto a piece of construction paper. Allow the children to decorate their picture any way they would like.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to reject pride and embrace humility. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.

Have a slice of Humble Pie

