

DANIEL 4

AIM OF STUDY:

Seek to do something a bit different this week to particularly cater for the visual and hands-on learners of your group. Reflect together on our own tendency towards pride and encourage each other to walk in humility before God in trusting Jesus.

MAIN TEACHING POINT:

The Lord brings down the proud of this world and lifts up the humble. The last words in Daniel of the mighty pagan king Nebuchadnezzar speak of the Lord's greatness and the eternal dominion of his kingdom.

Note for Leaders - Be prepared for this study by providing paper and drawing equipment for each participant.

OPENING ACTIVITY

Sketch your own representation of human pride. Share and explain it with the other members of your group.

Read through the whole chapter.

BODY

Our study will be based on the key verses in the chapter that speak about God and about humanity.

Split into small groups and choose one of the statements found below. Take the time to chew over your statement and then answer the following questions/do the activity. Afterwards present your findings to the other groups:

1. What did these words mean for King Nebuchadnezzar in his day?
2. What do they mean for us in our day?
3. Have a go at sketching to present the idea in a visual way.

Statements:

- A. *All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, and the king answered and said, "Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?" Daniel 4:28-30*
- B. *Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble. Daniel 4:37*
- C. *.....you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. You shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and you shall be wet with the dew of heaven, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will. Daniel 4:25*
- D. *And as it was commanded to leave the stump of the roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be confirmed for you from the time that you know that Heaven rules. Daniel 4:26*

EXPLORE FURTHER IF YOU HAVE TIME

Consider the unusual nature of this chapter. It is very rare in the Bible to find a person speaking to us in the first person, especially when this person is a pagan king telling us what he has learned about the living God. Read and compare verses 3 with verses 34-35.

Read James 4:6-10 and discuss the challenge of this passage for us today. What concrete steps might we take to put them into practice?