

## **Small Group Guide: Daniel 4 – Pride Before the Fall**



### **Warm Up**

Begin your group time by asking God to open hearts and minds to His Word, and to help each person identify areas where pride may have taken root in their lives.

### **Icebreaker**

Share a time when you accomplished something significant. How did you respond? Did you give credit to yourself, others, or God?



### **Know It**

#### **Key Takeaways:**

##### **The Danger of Pride**

- Success without humility becomes dangerous.
- Talent without surrender is destructive.
- Influence without God is idolatry.
- Pride causes us to rely on ourselves rather than God.

##### **God's Sovereignty Over All Authority**

- All earthly power is temporary and given by God.
- Even the most powerful rulers are subject to God's authority.
- God humbles the proud and exalts the humble.

##### **The Power of Repentance**

- No one is too far from God to be saved.
- God desires repentance, not destruction.
- We don't have to wait for everything to collapse before we surrender.

# Small Group Guide:

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### Faithful in the Mundane

- Daniel's 70-year story shows mostly everyday faithfulness.
- God honors consistent obedience in ordinary life.
- We don't need flashy accomplishments to please God.

### Discussion Questions

#### Understanding the Text

- **The Chiastic Structure:** How does understanding that Daniel 4 is the centerpiece of chapters 2-7 help you see its importance? What does this tell us about what God wanted to emphasize?
- **Nebuchadnezzar's Testimony:** Why is it significant that the only first-person account from a pagan Gentile in Scripture is a testimony about God's greatness? What does this reveal about God's mercy?
- **The Dream Interpretation:** Why do you think Nebuchadnezzar consulted other wise men before calling Daniel, even though he knew Daniel could interpret the dream?



### Share It

### Personal Reflection

- **Spiritual Amnesia:** Nebuchadnezzar had seen God work miraculously in chapters 2 and 3, yet he forgot. When have you experienced "spiritual amnesia"—forgetting what God has done in your life? What triggers this forgetfulness?
- **The Call to Repent:** Daniel urged Nebuchadnezzar to "separate yourself from your sins by doing what is right" (v. 27). Is there an area in your life where God has been calling you to repent, but you've been delaying?
- **Hidden Pride:** The sermon mentioned that "some of us know Bible verses, wear Christian t-shirts, serve faithfully and sing loudly...but on the inside may have some pride." What are some ways pride can hide behind religious activity?

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### Application

- **Foundation Check:** The sermon compared our lives to a water tower—the higher it stands, the more dependent it becomes on the foundation. How strong is your spiritual foundation right now? What cracks might be forming?
- **Faithful in the Mundane:** Daniel's story spans 70 years, but we only read about a few key moments. How does this encourage you in the "everyday faithfulness" of your current season (motherhood, work, retirement, etc.)?
- **Praying for the "Hopeless":** The sermon emphasized that if Nebuchadnezzar could be saved, anyone can. Who in your life seems far from God? How does this sermon change the way you'll pray for them?
- **Looking Up:** Nebuchadnezzar's restoration began when he "looked up to heaven." What does it practically look like for you to "look up" to God in your daily life?

### Key Verses to Memorize

**Daniel 4:34** - "But at the end of those days, I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven, and my sanity returned to me. Then I praised the Most High and honored and glorified him who lives forever: For his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation.

**Daniel 4:27** - "Therefore, may my advice seem good to you my king. Separate yourself from your sins by doing what is right, and from your injustices by showing mercy to the needy."



### Live It

### Practical Applications

#### This Week's Challenge

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

- **Pride Inventory:** Set aside 30 minutes for honest self-examination. Ask God to reveal areas of pride in your life. Journal about what He shows you.
- **Testimony Writing:** Like Nebuchadnezzar, write out your own testimony of what God has done in your life. Share it with at least one person this week.
- **Faithful in the Mundane:** Identify one "mundane" task in your life and commit to doing it with excellence and gratitude this week as an act of worship.

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- **Intercessory Prayer:** Create a list of people you know who are far from God. Commit to praying for them daily, believing that God can save anyone.
- **Foundation Strengthening:** Evaluate your spiritual disciplines (prayer, Bible reading, worship, fellowship). Choose one area to strengthen this week.

#### Deeper Study

For those who want to dig deeper:

- Read the entire chiastic structure (Daniel 2-7) and note the parallels
- Study other biblical examples of pride leading to a fall (King Saul, King Uzziah)
- Research the historical evidence for Nebuchadnezzar's reign and the Hanging Gardens of Babylon
- Study Romans 13 on respecting authority, as demonstrated by Daniel

#### Closing Reflection

**Question for Reflection:** If God were to give you a dream about your life right now, what would the tree look like? Is it growing tall on a solid foundation, or are there cracks forming that could lead to collapse?



#### Prayer

#### Prayer Focus:

- Pray for humility in areas of success and influence
- Pray for those who are far from God
- Pray for grace to be faithful in the mundane
- Pray for the courage to repent quickly when God convicts