

This week we will study about how one of the proudest kings, ever, learned to be humble!

# A DAY WITH THE KING



"For a time, the impression of the warning and the counsel of the prophet was strong upon Nebuchadnezzar; but the heart that is not transformed by the grace of God soon loses the impressions of the Holy Spirit. Self-indulgence and ambition had not yet been eradicated from the king's heart, and within a short time these traits reappeared... Hardening his heart, he used his God-given talents for selfglorification, exalting himself above the God who had given him life and power." – Prophets and Kings, p. 519



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# The Fall of the Great Tree

Daily Devotional 57



**LET'S PRAY** Dear Lord, Thank You for the blessings You give me everyday and for looking after me and my family. In Jesus' name, Amen.

#### LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Today our story begins in the book of Daniel, chapter 4. King Nebuchadnezzar wrote this chapter. He describes how his kingdom flourished until the golden city of Babylon became one of the wonders of the world. During this time, he became slack in acknowledging God's goodness and greatness. Inevitably he again fell into the trap of believing that all his fabulous wealth and prosperity was by his own clever doing.

Yet again, King Nebuchadnezzar's salvation was at stake. God in His mercy, sent Nebuchadnezzar another warning message through a second dream.

As the story unravels during the week, we will discover the lengths to which God will go to remove pride and arrogance.

#### **MEMORY VERSE - 1 PETER 5:5**

"...and be clothed with humanity, for 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble'."

## THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

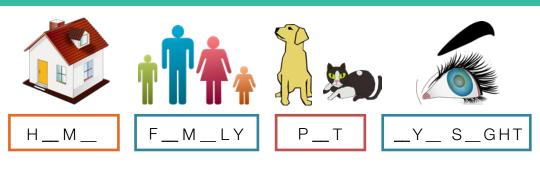
LET'S READ:

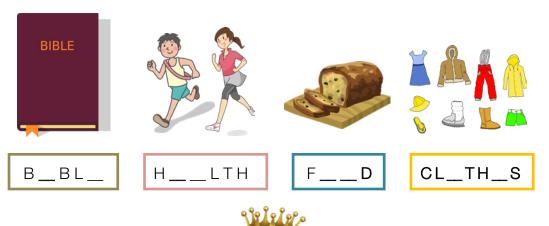
Daniel 4:1-9

#### KEY TEXT: Daniel 4:5

"I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts on my bed and the visions of my head troubled me."

#### COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS AND NAME THEM ONE BY ONE







**LET'S PRAY** Dear Lord, I ask for a humble and teachable heart. In Jesus' name, Amen.

#### LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

The vision shown to Nebuchadnezzar describes a magnificent tree which clearly flourishes under God's blessings and consequently becomes a blessing to all of earth's inhabitants.

In Ezekiel 31:3-14 we also see similar imagery of a magnificent tree when describing the Assyrian Empire. In verses 10-14 we sadly read that "its heart was lifted up in its height" resulting in its inevitable destruction.

Our memory verse confirms that "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble".

#### **MEMORY VERSE - 1 PETER 5:5**

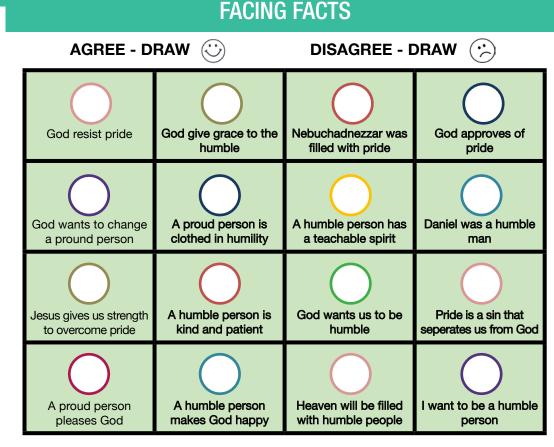
"...and be \_\_\_\_\_ with humility, for 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble'."

## THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ: Daniel 4:10-12

#### KEY TEXT: Daniel 4:10-11

"...a tree in the midst of the earth, and its height was great. The tree grew and became strong; its height reached the heavens, and it could be seen to the ends of the earth."





#### 4 – Daily Devotional 57



LET'S PRAY My Father in Heaven, You are the only, true God. Help me to always remember how wonderful and big You are. In Jesus' name, Amen.

#### LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

It is God who allows kings to rule, and it is God who likewise removes them. True greatness belongs to God and no one else. This was made very clear to King Nebuchadnezzar in his first dream involving the metal image.

The magnificent tree, which the king sees in his second dream, is suddenly chopped down and its branches cut off. The leaves are stripped, and the fruit and animals scattered. Only a stump, bound with a band of iron and bronze, is left.

There is indeed a strong link between what happened to the tree and the outcome of the metal statue, which was ultimately destroyed by supernatural means. King Nebuchadnezzar would have understood that it was God who was responsible for the destruction. No wonder the dream made King Nebuchadnezzar afraid.

**SPOT THE DIFFERENCE!** 

#### MEMORY VERSE - 1 PETER 5:5

"...and be \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_, for 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble'."

## THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ: Daniel 4:13-17

#### KEY TEXT: Daniel 4:17

"...in order that the living may know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men."

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**LET'S PRAY** Dear Heavenly Father, You are awesome. Thank you that I can learn about You from my Bible. In Jesus' name, Amen.

#### LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

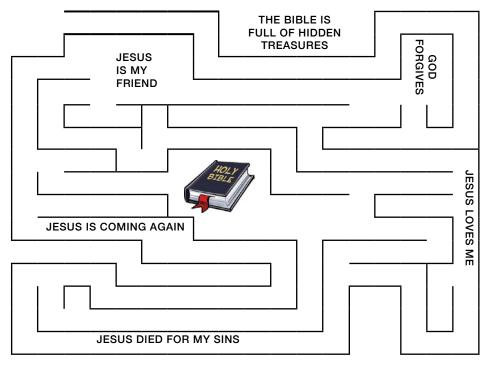
King Nebuchadnezzar was temporarily brought back to his senses when he again acknowledged that, firstly, only the God of heaven has true knowledge. And secondly, that God was working through His appointed servant Daniel to give him the necessary understanding.

Today God speaks to us through His Holy Word, the Bible. God inspired faithful men, just as He did with Daniel, to write about spiritual things so that we can have understanding.

The Bible, in John 16:13, tells us that it is the Holy Spirit who leads and guides us into the proper understanding of the Bible. How awesome is that!

#### BIBLE TREASURES

Leave a trail of the treasure that you have discovered in the Bible





#### MEMORY VERSE - 1 PETER 5:5

"...and be \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_, for '\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ the proud, but gives grace to the humble'."

# THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

Daniel 4:18

KEY TEXT: Daniel 4:18

"...but you are able, for the Spirit of the Holy God is in you."



**LET'S PRAY** Please Lord, show me when I am arrogant and proud, so that I can ask for forgiveness. In Jesus' name, Amen.

#### LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

The dream was a prophecy, a prediction about the future. Daniel began his interpretation by confirming that the dream was from the Most High God.

Daniel correctly explained that the huge, magnificent tree represented a person which was none other than King Nebuchadnezzar and his vast dominions.

Daniel then finishes by begging the king to turn from his wicked ways, in the hope that it would no longer be necessary for God to pass the proclaimed judgement of "cutting him down".

#### WISE COUNCIL FROM THE BIBLE

#### MEMORY VERSE - 1 PETER 5:5

"...and be \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_, for '\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_, but gives grace to the humble'."

# THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ: Daniel 4:19-27

#### KEY TEXT: Daniel 4:27

"...break off your sins by being righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor. Perhaps there may be a lengthening of your prosperity."

Pride goes before,
And a haughty spirit before a
Proverbs 16:18
By pride comes nothing but,
But with the well-advised is
Proverbs 13:10
Better to be of a spirit with the lowly,
Than to divide the spoil with the
Proverbs 16:19





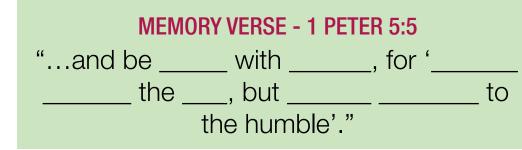
**LET'S PRAY** Lord, please give me a new heart and a new mind that will honour You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

#### LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Despite the clear warning, King Nebuchadnezzar again slipped back into his old arrogant, boastful ways. Yet God gave King Nebuchadnezzar a full year to change. God is so patient!

Our Torchlight taken from 'Prophets and Kings', page 519, confirms what the Bible teaches about a heart that is not transformed by the grace of God.

King Nebuchadnezzar finally sealed his fate with the words "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honour of my majesty?" The price he paid was 7 years spent with the beasts of the field, eating grass and crawling around on all fours like a crazy person. A sad contrast to his former life of luxury and mighty power as King.



# THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

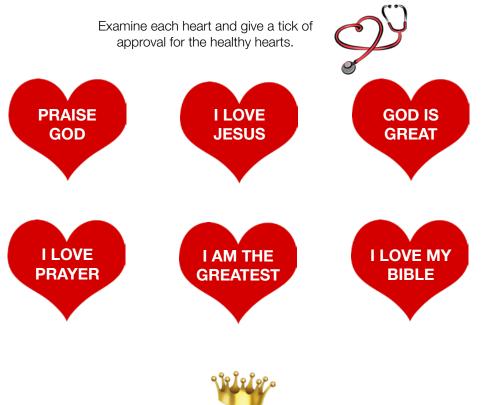
#### LET'S READ:

Daniel 4:28-33

#### KEY TEXT: Daniel 4:32

"...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."

#### **ACTIVITY TITLE**





**LET'S PRAY** Father, please change my heart that I may always praise You, and honour You, for the wonderful God that You are. In Jesus' name, Amen.

#### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

King Nebuchadnezzar's reason returned after seven years. God then restored the kingdom to him and he became greater than ever. But this time he rightfully gave God the credit for all his prosperity. He also acknowledged that God was the superior ruler, the King of an everlasting kingdom, whose ways are true and just.

Finally converted in his heart and mind, King Nebuchadnezzar lived the rest of his life giving heartfelt glory and honour to God.

#### SIGNS OF A CONVERTED KING

Identify the signs of a converted king in this picture.

"...and be \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_, for '\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_'."

MEMORY VERSE - 1 PETER 5:5

# THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

Daniel 4:34-37

#### KEY TEXT: Daniel 4:34

"And at the end of time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted up my eyes to heaven... and I blessed the Most High and praised and honoured Him who lives forever."

