The Fall of the Great Tree
LET’S PRAY  Dear Lord, Thank You for the blessings You give me every-day and for looking after me and my family. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

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.”
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.

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS AND NAME THEM ONE BY ONE

True Greatness – 3
LET’S PRAY  Dear Lord, I ask for a humble and teachable heart. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

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.”
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”.

**FACING FACTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGREE - DRAW</th>
<th>DISAGREE - DRAW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>God resist pride</td>
<td>God approves of pride</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>God give grace to the humble</td>
<td>Nebuchadnezzar was filled with pride</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>God wants to change a proud person</td>
<td>A proud person is clothed in humility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A proud person is kind and patient</td>
<td>A humble person has a teachable spirit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesus gives us strength to overcome pride</td>
<td>God wants us to be humble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A humble person makes God happy</td>
<td>Pride is a sin that separates us from God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A proud person pleases God</td>
<td>Heaven will be filled with humble people</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I want to be a humble person
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.

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

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

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.”
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

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.

MEMORY VERSE - 1 PETER 5:5
“…and be _____ with ______, for ‘_______ ______ the ____, but ______ _______ to the humble’.”

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.”
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.

ACTIVITY TITLE

Examine each heart and give a tick of approval for the healthy hearts.

- PRAISE GOD
- I LOVE JESUS
- GOD IS GREAT
- I LOVE PRAYER
- I AM THE GREATEST
- I LOVE MY BIBLE
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.

MEMORY VERSE - 1 PETER 5:5
“...and be _____ with ______, for ‘_______ ___ the ____, but ______ ________ to the ________________’.”

THERE’SPOWER 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.”
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.
This week we will study about how one of the proudest kings, ever, learned to be humble!

“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 self-glorification, exalting himself above the God who had given him life and power.”

– Prophets and Kings, p. 519