

Daniel - Week 4

Scripture: Daniel 4

Questions

1. Start the group today by asking someone to summarize the main story of Daniel chapter 1. Then someone else take chapter 2, and finally another take chapter 3. That will refresh the group on the flow of Daniel, and ready us for today's discussion.
2. This is the second dream that Nebuchadnezzar has in the book of Daniel, and we see God working through it once again. Have you ever had any dreams in which you felt the Lord speaking to you? Perhaps someone close to you has? Share your story with the group.
3. **Major Point 1: Pretending.** Nebuchadnezzar recognized the wisdom of Daniel, but kept Daniel's God at arm's length, pretending that his own life was good enough on its own. Can you look at a time in your life when you began to give something other than God your trust and worship? What are some of the biggest temptations in your life that have the potential to pull you away from full trust in God alone?
4. **Major Point 2: Pride.** Nebuchadnezzar eventually says, "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?" You may have looked at big accomplishments in your own life and been tempted to attribute too much credit to yourself rather than God. Share with the group what you think is your biggest accomplishment! Don't over-spiritualize it, but just pick something from school or work or something you've built through a hobby. Now, find at least one way that God deserves a lot of the credit for that accomplishment of yours.
5. **Major Point 3: Prison.** As Christians, we can avoid the severe consequences that were dropped on Nebuchadnezzar if we trust in Jesus rather than making ourselves into little gods. Read Psalm 8 together out loud. Verses 5 and 6 are about you! Yet, even with those amazing true statements about us, the psalmist ends by putting the praise squarely on God, "How majestic is your name in all the earth!"
6. **Major Point 4: Praise.** Eventually Nebuchadnezzar "lifted my eyes to heaven" which seems more than just a physical shift. It is symbolic of him recognizing that God is actually in control, and the Most High then returns his reason to him. We hear from Nebuchadnezzar some pretty amazing praise to the Most High...so is he in heaven now? Will we meet him when we get there? Why or why not? This is the last we hear of him in the book of Daniel, so it remains a mystery whether he truly put his faith in the Most High or whether this was a temporary emotional response.
7. Is there anything in Daniel 4 that really hit you today? Are there any beliefs that you need to correct? Any behaviors that you need to pray about changing?
8. End your time together with prayer. Pray that we remain humble, recognizing that God controls everything, so we should give him praise when things go well.