

## Talk Notes

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### 1. Introduction

### 2. The dream and its outcome

### 3. Applications

#### a) Pride and humility

#### b) Encouragement in today's world

#### c) The King we need

# The Book of Daniel

## chapter 4

God's glory: The humbling of a King

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## Introduction

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In Chapter 3 of Daniel we saw a confrontation between Daniel's friends and King Nebuchadnezzar. For them it was a choice between worshipping God or committing idolatry. Ultimately it was a battle between the true and living God and false gods. In chapter 3, God showed his sovereignty by saving Daniel's friends from being burnt alive in the fire. This study we continue to see the contest between God and Nebuchadnezzar. Who triumphs?

## Opening discussion

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What is the difference between being humbled and being embarrassed?

## Read the passage: *Daniel 4*.

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1. Describe the dream that King Nebuchadnezzar had. What were its main features and what happened in the dream?

2. What was the meaning of the dream?

3. How was the dream fulfilled?

4. In your opinion why did God humiliate King Nebuchadnezzar?

- a. To show the world who's the boss.
- b. Because God is proud and mean.
- c. To show that a creature's proper place before God is to worship God.
- d. To convert King Nebuchadnezzar into a believer of God.

5. How would you describe King Nebuchadnezzar's attitude towards God before and after this incident?

- a. before:
  
- b. after:

6. What are the different ways people use the word 'humble' today, and how is this different to the way it's used in Daniel?

- a. low self esteem
- b. weak
- c. put to shame (humiliated)
- d. a sense of unworthiness before someone much greater.

7. In pairs, check out the following verses and work out why God humbles people:

- a. Deuteronomy 8:2–3
- b. 1 Samuel 2:6–7
- c. 2 Chronicles 12:6–8

## Summary

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We see God's glory as he humbles the great King Nebuchadnezzar. It shows God's greatness over all kingdoms of the earth and teaches us that any earthly kings are just creatures under God. The king's words point not just to God's greatness but to Jesus' own Kingly rule and eternal kingdom (v34–35).

## Meaning and Relevance

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8. Why is humility before God a godly attribute? Why is it so highly valued by God?

9. If God demands His creatures to be humble before Him, does this make God a proud or a humble God? How does Jesus help us answer this question? See Phil 2:6–8 and Matt 11:28–30.

10. How should we respond when we are humbled by God?

- a. get annoyed with God
- b. get annoyed with others
- c. lose confidence in ourselves
- d. hide ourselves in our room and vow never to show our face again
- e. be thankful that we came to our senses and repent of our pride
- f. worship and glorify God.