



Introduction

This week, Pastor J.D. preached from Daniel 4. The entire chapter is told from the perspective of King Nebuchadnezzar. The chapter is concerned with another one of the king's dreams. Daniel, who was entirely absent in chapter 3, makes an appearance in this chapter to interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream. In the dream, the destruction of the tree is supposed to teach Nebuchadnezzar of the danger of pride and the supremacy of God. That all of God's works "are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble" (Daniel 4:37 ESV).

In small group this week, we will discuss how to apply the truths we learn from this week's passage and Pastor J.D.'s sermon.

Before Your Small Group Meeting

Listen to the weekend message from May 16.

Read Daniel 4.

Getting Started

First Five Minutes

Choose one of the following prompts or questions to open your discussion this week:

- Who are some people in your life that are examples of godly humility?
- Why do you think it's difficult for people in high positions of authority to remain humble?

Prayer

Open with a prayer asking God to send his Spirit as you begin to discuss his preached Word.

Group Discussion

Read Daniel 4 aloud as a group.

1. What do you consider “the good life”? What do you define in your heart as “making it” or “success”? Have you achieved this at any point in your life?

This passage clearly portrays King Nebuchadnezzar as one who grew prideful. Pastor J.D. talked about the two roots of pride: (1) a failure to see that every good thing comes from God, and (2) the foolish assumption that ‘the good life’ will last forever.

2. Going off of question 1, how do you relate your desires for good things in life, whether it be success, achievements, etc. to God? Consider Pastor J.D.’s two roots of pride. How do these truths refine or challenge how you think of “the good life”?

Pastor J.D. went on to highlight six fruits of pride:

1. Competitiveness
2. Ingratitude
3. Entitlement
4. Overconfidence
5. Self-will
6. Stinginess
7. Exploitation

3. In what areas of your life do these fruits show up? Career? Family? Possessions? Spiritual walk? Leadership? Where do you feel like pride is at work in your heart?

Pastor J.D. ended his sermon with the cure for pride, emphasizing that we need God to wake us up from pride and humble us. After Nebuchadnezzar was humbled by God, he praised God. Daniel 4:34–35 is worth meditating on again:

At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever,
for his dominion is an everlasting dominion,
and his kingdom endures from generation to generation;
³⁵ all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,
and he does according to his will among the host of heaven
and among the inhabitants of the earth;
and none can stay his hand
or say to him, “What have you done?”

4. A true vision of who God really is, and what we are in comparison to him, is one of the best pathways to humility. Consider this entire chapter, especially verses 34–37. What can we learn about God from these texts?

Pride is not a one time enemy we defeat and then consider dead. One of the most dreadful errors we can make is to look back on a time when God humbled us, and then say to ourselves, “Ah, yes. I learned humility at this point in my life. So glad I don’t have to worry about pride now.”

5. Share about a time in your life when God humbled you. Publicly acknowledge how God brought you low from your pride. Also, what are ways you can stay diligent in your walk to fight against pride and fight for humility?

Prayer

As we learned in Daniel, God is able to do whatever he wants! What do you want God to do for you? Take some time to share your prayer requests with each other.

We want small group members to grow in the habit of praying with our leaders and pastors at the end of the weekend gatherings. This week, coordinate who all in your small group goes to the same service. Then after the service, go up together in a group to ask a pastor to pray with your group for these requests.