



## HUMBLING THE PROUD AND EXALTING THE HUMBLE

If you have a pattern of having someone share their *Story of Faith* (life before Jesus, encountering Jesus, life since/lately with Jesus) and/or sharing *Evidences of God's grace*, begin with that, followed by a time of thankful prayer for Christ's work in the individual's life/the grace in your lives.

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### OPENING COMMENT

King Nebuchadnezzar was the most powerful man in the world and one of the most powerful ever. And in an instant, God humbled him. Why? Sheer grace.

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### READ THE TEXT: Daniel 4:1-37

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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Daniel 4 was written as an encouragement to Israelites in exile. What about the chapter would have encouraged them? What about the chapter encourages you?
2. Why do we seem to detect pride in others relatively easily and yet rarely detect it in ourselves?
3. The final lines of William Ernest Henley's *Invictus* read, "*I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul.*" Does that self-made, self-actualized mindset match our culture today? How so?



4. An indicator of spiritual pride is when we say, *"it's about time!"* when blessings come our way and, *"this isn't fair!"* when hardships come. Can you relate with these sentiments?
5. Those sentiments reveal self-sovereignty governing our hearts instead of God's sovereignty. Why is the doctrine of the Sovereignty of God so critical for a flourishing faith?
6. Reflect on all the ways in which Daniel 1-4 has painstakingly emphasized that God is sovereign and how that enriches our faith.
7. Although God *cut down* Nebuchadnezzar He was also incredibly merciful. How so? How is the gospel both a soothing balm and remedy to prideful hearts?

## CONCLUSION

Daniel 4 shows us, first, that whether it's world leaders or adversaries in your life, there are none so prideful and powerful whom God can't humble and thwart. Second, the way in which God deals with Nebuchadnezzar reveals that there are none so destitute, so far gone, that can't be reached with the humility-inducing, life-transforming grace of God.

## SHARE & PRAY

- Share how you can pray for each other in light of this study.
- Conclude by spending some time praying for one another, for the areas of growth and grace you are seeking, and the needs among you.

