

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

Daniel 4
Stand Strong Series
March 17/18, 2018

Main Idea:

“And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.” (Daniel 4:37)

Discovery Questions

1. What’s been a big “dream come true” moment in your life? (It can be a literal dream that you had or a “figurative” dream that came true in your life.)

This week, we continue our series through the book of Daniel. Today we look at a unique section of Scripture – the only chapter in the Bible written by a pagan. It’s a story written by King Nebuchadnezzar, and he tells of a humbling experience that God gave him to teach him that God is sovereign over everything.

Like last week, we will focus on just a portion of the passage – the interpretation of King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream by Daniel (also known as Belteshazzar) and its aftermath.

2. Read Daniel 4:18-37. Where do you see reminders of God’s sovereignty and the dangers of pride in this passage?

**3. a. What situations can especially bring out prideful thoughts and feelings in a person?
b. What are various ways that pride can show itself? What do prideful people do, say, think?
c. Is there someone you know who is an example of true humility? How does their humility express itself? What stands out to you about their example?**

**4. a. Have you ever personally experienced the truth of Proverbs 16:18 that “pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall”? Has God ever allowed you to be humbled as a result of unchecked pride?
b. What situations, people, circumstances, etc. are the most likely to bring out feelings of arrogance / pride in your life? How do you know when you’re feeling prideful?
c. What are some things that we can do to stay humble when we are tempted to be prideful?**

5. We said this past weekend that a humble person both looks up toward God in thanksgiving and around towards other people, valuing them above ourselves (Philippians 2:3). This week, who is someone with whom you can demonstrate humility in order to show they are valuable to you? What can you do to show them that you value them? Think coworkers, family members, even people you pass by on the street or in a coffee shop or restaurant on a regular basis. What would stop you from living that out this week?

Leader Guide Starts on Next Page

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

Leader Guide

1. What's been a big "dream come true" moment in your life? (It can be a literal dream that you had or a "figurative" dream that came true in your life.)

This is a "lighter" question designed to get the conversation going. Spend about 5-7 minutes on this question.

This week, we continue our series through the book of Daniel. Today we look at a unique section of Scripture – the only chapter in the Bible written by a pagan. It's a story written by King Nebuchadnezzar, and he tells of a humbling experience that God gave him to teach him that God is sovereign over everything.

Like last week, we will focus on just a portion of the passage – the interpretation of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream by Daniel (also known as Belteshazzar) and its aftermath.

2. Read Daniel 4:18-37. Where do you see reminders of God's sovereignty and the dangers of pride in this passage?

This whole passage serves as a reminder of God's sovereignty and the dangers of pride. God shows His sovereignty first by giving a dream to Nebuchadnezzar in the first place; God is even able to place dreams and visions in our mind. Then God shows his sovereignty by the events in the dream, and the fact that what happens in the dream comes to pass. God also shows his sovereignty by placing Daniel, a Jewish follower of Him, in Nebuchadnezzar's court. Finally, God shows His sovereignty by both humbling Nebuchadnezzar at exactly the right moment AND by restoring Nebuchadnezzar when He has determined that Nebuchadnezzar is successfully repentant.

Nebuchadnezzar's life is an example of the dangers of pride. Because Nebuchadnezzar failed to acknowledge God and His power and majesty, Nebuchadnezzar is punished for that.

Spend 10-12 minutes on this question.

- 3. a. What situations can especially bring out prideful thoughts and feelings in a person?
b. What are various ways that pride can show itself? What do prideful people do, say, think?
c. Is there someone you know who is an example of true humility? How does their humility express itself? What stands out to you about their example?**

The interesting thing about pride is that pride can show itself both when we are "up" and when we are "down"... when everything is going "right" and when everything is going "wrong." When everything is going "right," we can feel as though things are going well because of our achievements and accomplishments—that we are enjoying the success that we are enjoying because of the decisions that we have made. When things are going "wrong," pride can develop because we feel as though we deserve better—that what we are experiencing is not what we should be experiencing. Pride is bale to develop in all different types of situations.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

Spend 10-12 minutes on this question in its entirety.

4.
 - a. Have you ever personally experienced the truth of Proverbs 16:18 that “pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall”? Has God ever allowed you to be humbled as a result of unchecked pride?
 - b. What situations, people, circumstances, etc. are the most likely to bring out feelings of arrogance / pride in your life? How do you know when you’re feeling prideful?
 - c. What are some things that we can do to stay humble when we are tempted to be prideful?

For part “c,” we talked about two things weekend:

- *The first thing is to “look up to God” with a spirit of gratitude towards the things that God has given us. Humility begins with acknowledging that everything comes from God, and we do this by thanking God for what he has given us.*
- *The second thing is to “look around to other people.” To realize that we are no better or worse than everyone else (1 Corinthians 4:7). We talk more about this in the next question.*

Spend about 10-12 minutes on this question in its entirety.

5. **We said this past weekend that a humble person both looks up toward God in thanksgiving and around towards other people, valuing them above ourselves (Philippians 2:3). This week, who is someone with whom you can demonstrate humility in order to show they are valuable to you? What can you do to show them that you value them? Think coworkers, family members, even people you pass by on the street or in a coffee shop or restaurant on a regular basis. What would stop you from living that out this week?**

Spend 7-10 minutes on this question.