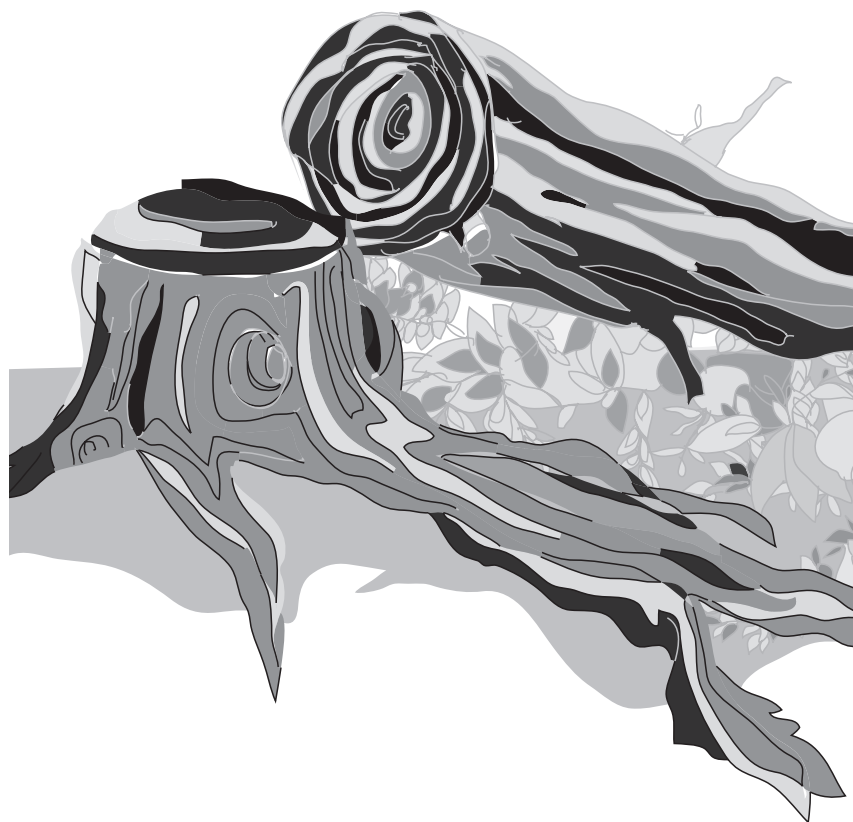


LESSON 74

The Glory Belongs to God Alone

DANIEL 4



BIBLE TRUTH

THE GLORY FOR ALL WE DO BELONGS TO GOD

LESSON SNAPSHOT

- 1. OPENING REVIEW** **5 MIN**
 Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
- 2. BIBLE STORY** **10 MIN**
 Read Daniel 4 from the Scriptures or read story 74, “The Glory Belongs to God Alone,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
- 3. OBJECT LESSON 1** **10 MIN**
 Who Is the Greatest?
- 4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
- 5. OBJECT LESSON 2** **10 MIN**
 None Can Stay the Hand of God
SUPPLIES:
 ✓ large, strong man
- 6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
- 7. ACTIVITY TIME** **10 MIN**
 Coloring Activity
SUPPLIES:
 ✓ coloring page 74—one copy for each child
- 8. CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
- 9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
 What Are Our Warnings?

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Daniel interprets Nebuchadnezzar's second dream—Nebuchadnezzar has a second dream and brings Daniel in to interpret it. The dream is a judgment against King Nebuchadnezzar. Even so, God's mercy toward the king is still present, and Daniel urges him to repent.

God humbles Nebuchadnezzar—In this passage, we see that the root of Nebuchadnezzar's sin is pride. The king thinks his success is due to his own power, and he takes the glory for himself. Even though he has seen that there is a God who can miraculously save men from fire and interpret dreams and has been warned, Nebuchadnezzar thinks more of himself than of God. He does not understand that the God who did all these things is the same God who has given him his power. After ignoring Daniel's plea to repent, God fulfills his warning, and Nebuchadnezzar goes insane.

Nebuchadnezzar is restored—Because Nebuchadnezzar refused to humble himself, God humbles him. At the end of the time foretold by Daniel (probably seven years), Nebuchadnezzar lifts his eyes to heaven. His sanity returns to him and immediately he blesses, praises, and honors the Most High God. Nebuchadnezzar gives glory to God in a wonderful prayer and finishes with a declaration of worship. Now he sees that God is able to humble those who walk in pride and that it is by God's power and not his own that he rules.

Even the timing and length of Nebuchadnezzar's humbling was completely defined by God. The king did nothing to earn his restoration, which was by God's grace alone.

WHERE IS JESUS? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read Daniel 4:27–33.

Daniel told the king to obey God's commands—to stop sinning and practice righteousness. But even if the king wanted to stop sinning, he would not be able to. And if he could stop sinning, he would still be guilty of all the bad things he had already done and would still need to be punished for his sin. What the king really needed was to give up and call out to God for mercy.

We are all sinners. We continue to sin no matter how hard we try not to. Plus, all the good things we do cannot cover up the bad things we have already done. Our only hope is to call out to God to save us. God has provided a way for us to be forgiven by sending his Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. It is only when we trust in the good work of Jesus on the cross that we can be saved.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Daniel 4 from the Scriptures or read story 74, "The Glory Belongs to God Alone," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Who Is the Greatest?

Ask the class who is the greatest person they have ever heard of. List their answers on the board. If they cannot come up with anyone give them a hint by suggesting great leaders, inventors, or

sports figures. If they suggest Jesus, agree that he was the greatest person but you want to limit the discussion to those other than Christ.

After you have a list, ask them by a show of hands to vote on the greatest. Then ask the class the following questions:

What made this person great?

(They should describe what they did and how amazing it was.)

Who made this person great?

(God made this person great. Apart from God's grace the person they chose would not have even existed. And apart from the grace of God this person would have not accomplished anything.)

Who should get the glory (credit) for what this person did?

(The Bible tells us that it is good to give honor to men for their accomplishments but that the glory—the ultimate credit for what they did—belongs to God alone.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

None Can Stay the Hand of God

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ large, strong man

The object of this lesson is to help the children visualize the reality of Nebuchadnezzar's prayer in Daniel 4:35.

Ask for five volunteers. When they come forward introduce your guest, and explain that these five volunteers are going to attempt to beat your guest at arm wrestling. Of course they will view this as an impossible task. Go through the motions of all five getting beat anyway.

Then ask the class the following questions:

When you heard what the volunteers were being called to do, what did you think?

(We thought it was impossible for them to beat {strong man's name} at arm wrestling.)

Read Nebuchadnezzar's prayer in Daniel 4:35. What did Nebuchadnezzar learn about God and "staying his hand?"

(Nebuchadnezzar would have been the most powerful man in the world, yet he could not stop God from doing what God wanted to do. God had complete control over Nebuchadnezzar. Here we see that God takes the most powerful man in the world and turns him into an insane cowlike creature in mere seconds.)

What bigger plan of God was Nebuchadnezzar a part of?

(God was protecting and preserving his people who would return to Israel and later bring forth the Messiah. None can stop the purposes of God; none can stay his hand.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 74—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

Who do you see in the picture?

(King Nebuchadnezzar)

Why did God give King Nebuchadnezzar the mind of an animal?

(Because the king gave glory to himself not to God)

What kind of things might we be tempted to give glory to ourselves about?

(some examples: getting a good grade on a test, learning how to ride a bicycle, doing well in sports, etc.)

What lesson is God trying to teach us in this story?

(God alone gets the glory.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

What Are Our Warnings?

Explain to the children that like Nebuchadnezzar we have been given warnings about what will happen in the future. Share the following warnings, and ask the class to explain why God gave them to us and how we might comply with them. Explain to the children that warnings come to us from God to keep our lives in line with his Word.

Exodus 20:12—If you honor your parents you will live a long life. The implied warning is that if you do not honor your parents, you will not live a long life.

Matthew 6:14–15—If you forgive others, God will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, God will not forgive you.

John 14:6—Nobody can come to the Father except through Jesus. The implied warning is that if you try and come to heaven any other way, you will not make it.

Matthew 24:44—Jesus will return when we least expect it. We must be ready because we do not know when Jesus will return.

What happened to Nebuchadnezzar when he ignored Daniel's advice?

(He became insane, eating grass like a cow.)

What would happen if we didn't heed our parents' warnings?

(We would receive consequences of disobedience.)

What will happen to us if we do not heed God's warnings for us?

(We will receive the consequences declared in his Word.)

LESSON 74 - THE GLORY BELONGS TO GOD ALONE

