

## Daniel 4 Discussion Questions

- When you hear the word *pride*, what comes to mind? How do you distinguish between healthy confidence and the sin of pride?
- King Nebuchadnezzar begins chapter 4 by publicly praising God. But as this chapter shows, he has yet to truly repent. What is the difference between “respecting” God and truly worshiping Him?
  - What are some ways people acknowledge or even respect God without submitting their lives to Him? What does the Bible say about that kind of faith? (see Matthew 15:8; James 2:17)
- Ben said, “You can pour all the empires of this world into your heart and still be empty.” What personal kingdoms or empires do you see people trying to build? What personal kingdoms have left you empty?
- Daniel was willing to speak hard truth to Nebuchadnezzar. Why is it often hard to receive warnings from others when our pride is involved?
- When a pagan king needed spiritual insight, God gave him insight through Daniel. Who has God put in your life to give spiritual insight to? What opportune moments have you had lately to speak “a word in season” to them?
- In the dream, God dramatically humbles Nebuchadnezzar. What does this teach us about God’s patience and its limits?
- What lesson did God want Nebuchadnezzar to learn?

- Why is remembering God's sovereignty so important to our spiritual health?
  - Why is it important for people in positions of authority?
- In the sermon, Ben said, "Pride defaces your humanity." He listed three effects of pride: (a) Isolation, (b) Inability to show compassion to others, and (c) loss of joy due to a sense of entitlement. How have you seen each of these play out in your own life? In the lives of others?
- Why do you think pride so often steals joy, even when a person is "winning" by the world's standards?
- Nebuchadnezzar's restoration begins when he "lifts his eyes to heaven." Why does submitting to God actually restore us? (see Matthew 23:12)
- Jesus says, "Seek first *his* kingdom and *his* righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). How have you seen this promise play out in your life?
- Is there an area of life where God may be calling you to step down from the throne and trust His rule more fully?
- What are some daily practices that help you "look outside yourself" and keep God on the throne?