


BOON of DANIEL



Courage in Culture

THE THEME

Courage in Culture

MEMORY VERSE

“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”

- James 4:10, NIV

CHALLENGE VERSE

“Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you.”

- 1 Samuel 12:24, ESV

OCTOBER 22 - LIFE APPLICATION

“Be humble, not proud.”

Note to Parents

For the next three months, we will be learning about the **Book of Daniel** and how we can have **“Courage in Culture.”** The life application this week is **“Be Humble, Not Proud.”**

Before talking with your kids, read **Daniel 4**. King Nebuchadnezzar humbly gives his testimony to what God has done in his life.

DISCUSS:

1. In **Daniel 4:1-3**, who is telling their story? (*King Nebuchadnezzar.*) **Why is he sending this testimony to all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell on the earth?** (*To show the signs and wonders that the Most High God has done for him.*)
2. In **verses 4-8**, King Nebuchadnezzar tells about another dream that troubled him. The magicians, enchanters, Chaldeans and astrologers were told the dream but could not interpret it. **Who did Nebuchadnezzar call in next?** (**Verses 8,9** - *Daniel, known as Belteshazzar, was summoned. The king had great respect for Daniel and knew him to be able to do what the others could not do because of the spirit within him. King Nebuchadnezzar thought the spirits of all the gods were within Daniel, but it was really the Spirit of the One True God.*)
3. With your family, read **verses 13-18**, which describe King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream about the tree and what happened to it. Daniel was dismayed by the dream, but had to humbly tell the king what it meant. **In verse 23, who was the tree?** (*King Nebuchadnezzar.*)

Daniel explained to the king what would happen to him for a period of seven years, as a decree from God. Read **verse 25** and discuss what the dream said would happen to the king. God would cut the tree (Nebuchadnezzar) to the stump, and he would live like a wild man, made to eat grass like an ox, with dew matting his long hair and beard, and his fingernails long like a bird’s claws. He would be totally insane. **Until what happened?** (*Read the last phrase in **verse 25** - “till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will.”*)

4. After 12 months, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace feeling proud of all he had accomplished, a voice from heaven came to him and declared that the time had come for the predictions in the dream to happen (**verses 31, 32**). And it did happen just as Daniel had said. King Nebuchadnezzar lost everything, and he was completely humbled.
5. **What finally happened to the king after seven years?** (Read **verses 34-37**. King Nebuchadnezzar lifted his eyes to heaven and his reason returned to him. He understood that the God of Daniel, our God, is the Most High God and he and he alone is God. He repented of his pride and humbled himself. And eventually, God restored him!)
6. **How was Nebuchadnezzar able to be restored?** (He repented of all he had done, he humbled himself before God, he believed in the God of Israel as being the One True God.) Eventually, God restored everything that Nebuchadnezzar had lost, and more!

FAMILY CHALLENGE

1. **What was wrong with King Nebuchadnezzar? Why did God take everything from him? Discuss.** (Hopefully your family will understand that he was proud and glorified himself instead of the One True God. Read **Proverbs 16:18** – “Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.”)
2. **Why do you think that God wants us to “Be humble, not proud?”** (He wants us to understand that He is over all things, and especially our lives. If we humble ourselves and glorify Him, He will lift us up to high places.)
3. **Why is Daniel a great role model for us?** Discuss before giving the answer. Kids learn a lot by wondering and talking about things! (He decided to obey God, he was humble, he was respectful to the king, and he spoke with winsome words that caused people to like him and eventually his God.)
4. **Were you surprised that King Nebuchadnezzar was restored by God, even though he was proud and did evil things?** (We are all sinners and no one deserves God’s grace, but if we repent and are humble, He can restore anyone, even a bad king!)
5. Look at this month’s verse. Practice saying it together! “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.” (**James 4:10, NIV**)

Have your kids practice being humble as they interact with each other and others, instead of bragging about themselves and always needing to be right. Compliment them when you “catch” them being humble!

PRAYER

Dear God, Thank You for loving us and teaching us to be humble, not proud. We know that it pleases You when we give You the glory for all things. We love You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

