

These notes have been put together to be used alongside the Sunday teaching at Wavertree.

This week we are looking at Daniel 4 & 5. Start by reading Daniel 5 and discussing what stands out either from Jenny's message or the verses themselves.

Read Daniel Chapter 5 together

“But you, Belshazzar, his son, have not humbled yourself, though you knew all this. Instead, you have set yourself up against the Lord of heaven.”

2 Proud Kings:

- **Nebuchadnezzar**

- Proud, self-glorifying (*“Is not this the great Babylon I have built...”*)
- Humbled by God until he acknowledges heaven's rule

- **Belshazzar**

- Knew the truth but ignored it
- Acted arrogantly and dishonoured God
- Lost everything as a result
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In contrast: Daniel is

- Humble - gives credit to God, not himself
- Gentle - Speaks truth with gentleness and courage

DISCUSSION : 15 minutes

1. Where do you see pride in our culture today?
2. In what areas of your life are you tempted to: Promote yourself? Compare yourself to others? Seek approval or status?
3. What does true humility look like for you, is there any area God is putting his finger on at the moment - work, school, social group etc?
4. Read Matthew 11:29 (*"I am gentle and humble in heart"*) What can we learn from:
 - i. Jesus choice of words here?
 - ii. Jesus example of redefining strength and leadership?

God opposes the proud but shows favour to the humble. James 4:6

REFLECTION: 5 - 10 minutes

You could put on some quiet music, use something tactile like clay or colours, or simply sit and reflect.

- **Read Phillipians 2:-11**
- ***"Where has pride subtly taken hold in my life?"***
- ***"What would it look like for me to 'empty myself' for others this week?"*** Ideas:
 - Giving credit to others instead of taking it
 - Choosing kindness over winning or being right
 - Being slower to judge or criticise
 - Speaking truth with gentleness
 - Putting others' needs before your own
 - Letting go of the need to appear impressive

PRAYER: 10 minutes

Share as you are comfortable and pray for one another.