

**DANIEL 4**  
**THE CONVERSION OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR**

**1. Icebreaker**

*Example: Are you a fan of St. Valentine's Day? Why or Why not?*

**2. Opening Prayer**

*Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer*

**3. Tell the Story**

*Non-obligatory outline to help prepare for the "storying" of the scripture reviewed during LG*

Nebuchadnezzar has another dream, this one of a great tree that fills the earth and then is cut down but its trunk left intact, followed by a man whose heart is changed and becomes like an animal (1-18). Daniel interprets the dream as applying to the king, that he might know that God rules in the kingdoms of men (19-27). A year later the dream is fulfilled, and Nebuchadnezzar praises, blesses and honors the Most High God, King of heaven (28-37).

v.2 Nebuchadnezzar could see that God gives us signs and does wonders to testify of Himself to us.

v.3 Nebuchadnezzar was resting because he had conquered the world. He had led his armies into battle successfully and without fear. Now his thoughts and dreams were troubling and upsetting him.

v.22 King Nebuchadnezzar was the most powerful king of all world governments.

v.25 God wanted Nebuchadnezzar to realize that his kingdom and power were given to him by God. God gives kingdoms and rules the rulers (Luke 2:1-3).

v.33 Nebuchadnezzar went insane immediately after the voice spoke from heaven.

v.34-37 At the end of seven terrible years, Nebuchadnezzar was converted and submitted himself to God. Some people will go through seven years of the Great Tribulation before they will submit to God.

**4. Read the Story (Daniel 4)**

*Read out loud as a group, 4-5 verses per person, let everyone know they can opt out if they want to*

**5. Breaking it Down**

*Questions to be used (as appropriate based upon meeting dynamics) to facilitate discussion and understanding*

**5.1 Who was the "watcher" and what is its relevance? (13)**

- The "watcher" was probably an angel. We're so concerned with the material world

that we often forget how much the spirit world is involved in our lives (Ephesians 6:12). Satan often attacks us through our emotions. He can give us that depressed and out-of-sorts feeling. We need to recognize an attack of Satan, resist the attack (James 4:7), and rejoice that God has provided the victory for us through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**5.2 What are the three key elements of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. (10-17)**

- A large tree that fills the earth, but is cut down leaving only the trunk
- A watcher from heaven, who makes pronouncements
- A man whose heart is changed and becomes like a beast until "seven times" pass over

**5.3 Who does Daniel say the dream applies to? (22)**

- King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon

**5.4 What statements reveal the lesson of the dream and its fulfillment? (17,25,35)**

- "That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men."
- "The Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses."
- "He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth."

**5.5 What was Nebuchadnezzar doing when the dream's fulfillment occurred? (28-31)**

- Walking about his palace, boasting of his mighty power and majestic honor

**5.6 Describe the king's behavior and appearance when he lost his kingdom. (33)**

- Ate grass like oxen, body wet with dew, hair like eagles' feathers, nails like birds' claws

**5.7 What did the king do when his understanding returned? (34)**

- Blessed, praised, and honored Him who lives forever, for His everlasting kingdom

**5.8 What was restored to the king when his reason returned to him? (36)**

- The glory of his kingdom, his honor and splendor

**6 Application**

Sample questions (as appropriate) to tie to life application

- 1) What does this passage teach us about God?
- 2) What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- 3) What is a command to obey in this passage? What has God revealed in your life that needs changing? What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

## Personal Reflection/Application

1. Although Daniel had previously interpreted the king's dream, he still treated Daniel as a second option by turning again to his "wise men." As we are confronted with daily decisions and trials, do we treat God as a second option, only seeking his counsel after we have tried to find it on our own or from other sources? How have you recently sought answers from your own understanding? How did that work out? How have you recently sought answers from God Himself? Can you give testimony of how God used it in your life?

2. Daniel revealed one of the king's major blind spots of pride to him. Who do you trust enough to show you your own blind spots? How have you seen a relationship like this as valuable in your life? If you do not have a person that you can trust, what steps can you take to find that person?

3. Nebuchadnezzar's pride was at its peak when he was looking across his own palace (v. 29-30). In what areas of your life do you struggle with pride (comparing my kids to others, dealing with my boss or co-workers, etc.)? What are some boundaries you can place in your life that will keep pride from growing in your heart?

4. God used a great difficulty in the king's life to humble him. What circumstances in your past or that you are currently going through might God be using to teach you Christ-like humility?

## **7 Prayer Requests**

*Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the LifeGroup.  
What happens in LifeGroup, Stays in LifeGroup*

## **8 Closing & Prayer**

**DANIEL 4**  
**THE CONVERSION OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR**

**1. Icebreaker**

**2. Opening Prayer**

*Consider volunteering for prayer.*

**3. Tell the Story**

*Consider volunteering to Read the Story at your next meeting.*

**4. Read the Story (Daniel 4)**

*Read out loud as a group, 4-5 verses per person, let everyone know they can opt out if they want to*

**5. Breaking it Down**

*Review the scripture through question, discussion.*

**5.1 Who was the “watcher” and what is its relevance? (13)**

**5.2 What are the three key elements of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream. (10-17)**

**5.3 Who does Daniel say the dream applies to? (22)**

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**6 Application**

1) What does this passage teach us about God?

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**8 Closing & Prayer**

*Don't forget – when are you meeting next? Who is facilitating? Who is Telling the Story?*