



The Seduction of Pride Robert Morris

Focus When Israel sinned by not letting the land rest every seven years for 490 years, God allowed them to be taken into bondage in Babylon where pagan kings reigned. King Nebuchadnezzar struggled with pride. We have all struggled with pride a time or two, and Satan lays in wait to tempt us. When we are prideful, God has to correct us. But if we look to Him for help, He restores us.

Fun What is your preferred snack? Do you lean toward sugary or salty?

Review Key Scriptures: 2 Chronicles 36:20–21; Daniel 2:26–28, 2:46–48, 3:1

To understand how pride seduces, we looked to the story of King Nebuchadnezzar.

1. Not Giving God the Glory

God gave the children of Israel into Nebuchadnezzar's hand because of their disobedience. Although they were taken into bondage, God still worked through them (Daniel 2:26–28). When God disciplines us, He is still protecting us. When God helps us achieve our dreams, we must give Him the glory.

2. Not Rejecting the Glory of Men

Although Nebuchadnezzar was impressed with Daniel's God, he still built an image and required people to bow down to it. Nebuchadnezzar did not exalt God. When God puts us in a position of influence, we are to remain humble. We must recognize that it is God who works through us (Acts 14:14–15; Revelation 22:8–9; Isaiah 42:8).

3. Not Speaking Humbly

Nebuchadnezzar took credit for his success, so God took the kingdom from him.

He became like a beast of the field (Daniel 4:29–33). However, when Nebuchadnezzar raised his eyes to heaven, his position was restored.

Group Dynamics Idea Discuss things that help us develop a good heart attitude to guard against pride. If you are comfortable doing so, share an experience that helped you overcome this issue.

Discuss

1. What sin sent the children of Israel into bondage? What figure of darkness wanted to keep them in emotional, mental, and spiritual bondage?
2. How was Daniel rewarded after interpreting King Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Daniel 2:48)? Did the king continue to honor Daniel's God (Daniel 3:1)? What was Nebuchadnezzar's sin (Daniel 3:15)?
3. What happened to those who did not bow down to the image (Daniel 3:19, 21)? How did God protect those who honored Him (Daniel 3:24–28)?
4. Read Daniel 4:29–33. What caused God to remove Nebuchadnezzar from his exalted position? What led to Nebuchadnezzar's deliverance and restoration (Daniel 4:34)?
5. What are the fruits of discipline and correction (Daniel 4:36–37)?
6. According to Matthew 12:34, what reveals the true attitude of the heart?

Take Home As we conclude, remember the following:

- When we are prideful, God must correct us.
- Pride leads to a wilderness journey.
- When we repent, God brings us through it.
- We must always give God the glory He is due.

Prayer Jesus, search my heart and forgive me for any pride residing there. I give You all the glory for what You have done through me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip You may have new members who do not know about Gateway's freedom ministry. Explain that Gateway Freedom is a kingdom-focused ministry designed to help people become truly free in Christ. Freedom gives us the ability to respond fully to God out of who He created and redeemed us to be. For more information, visit freedom.gatewaypeople.com.