

YEAR D | QUARTER 4

8

King on His Knees

Worship
God's presence changes our lives.

POWER TEXT

"When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom" (Proverbs 11:2).

KEY REFERENCES

- Daniel 4
- *Prophets and Kings*, chap. 42, pp. 514-521
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 6, pp. 44-48
- Student story on page 92 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 7, The Nature of Humanity
- No. 18, The Gift of Prophecy
- No. 22, Christian Behavior

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that the Holy Spirit works with each of them individually.
- **Feel** a need for the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives.
- **Respond** by praising the Lord for the Holy Spirit, who dwells in their hearts.

POWERPOINT

We praise God for the Holy Spirit's work in our lives.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Nebuchadnezzar has a dream in which he sees a tall tree in the middle of the earth. It has beautiful leaves and an abundance of fruit. The tree grows strong and tall, eventually reaching into heaven. But suddenly a watcher and a holy one come down from heaven giving the command to cut down the tree and its branches, but leaving the stump of its roots in the earth.

Daniel interprets the dream for Nebuchadnezzar, and it comes true. Nebuchadnezzar, the strong king, is driven from the palace, and he lives as an animal. But he is restored to power after he recovers. He praises and honors God for working in his life.

This is a lesson about worship.

It took drastic measures for God to get Nebuchadnezzar's attention. Only after God humbled him did he finally begin to praise and honor God. Today the Holy Spirit is constantly working in our lives, trying to convince us of our need for God.

Teacher Enrichment

"For seven years Nebuchadnezzar was an astonishment to all his subjects; for seven years he was humbled before all the world. Then his reason was restored and, looking up in humility to the God of heaven, he recognized the divine hand in his chastisement. In a public proclamation he acknowledged his guilt and the great mercy of God in his restoration. . . .

"The once proud monarch had become a humble child of God; the tyrannical, overbearing ruler, a wise and compassionate king. He who had defied and blasphemed the God of heaven, now acknowledged the power of the Most High and earnestly sought to promote the fear of Jehovah and the happiness of his subjects. Under the rebuke of Him who is King of kings and Lord of lords, Nebuchadnezzar had learned at last the lesson which all rulers need to learn—that true greatness consists in true goodness. He acknowledged Jehovah as the living God" (*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 520, 521).

What measures does God need to take to get my attention? How can I live as a humble child of God? What will humility look like in my life?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?**

Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the readiness activity of your choice.

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Dreams* *B. A Still Small Voice*	Bibles, paper, pencils Bibles
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 87. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, offering plate/basket, index cards, pencils
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story Experiencing the Story Exploring the Bible	 Bibles, paper, pencils Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Heavy Help*	suitcase, heavy objects, volunteer
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	** Fruit Salad*	variety of sliced fruit in separate containers, large bowl, containers
* Closing		Prayer and Closing Comments Reminder to Parents Coming Up Next Week	

* Be aware of any food allergies and adjust accordingly.

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils

Dreams

Distribute paper and pencils.

Say: **Think of a dream you have had recently. On your paper, write a brief description of the dream.** Allow time for students to do this. Say: **Now, fold your paper in half and pass it to the next person. Without looking at the dream, can you write an interpretation?** Have the students write a sentence or two, guessing what the dream is about. Say: **Now pass the paper on to a third person and let that person read the dream and the interpretation. Do they make sense?** (no) **Why not?**

Debriefing

Ask: **What did we learn from this activity?** (Not much. Most dreams do not mean anything.)

Say: **The majority of what we dream does not mean very much, if anything. However, there are times that the Holy Spirit has chosen to speak to people through dreams. But whether through dreams or not, the Holy Spirit does work with our lives, leading us to worship and honor God.**

Ask: **What are ways that the Holy Spirit works in your life?** (through the Bible, other people talking with you and sharing their faith, providential circumstances) **Let's find and read Isaiah 30:21. Do we sometimes have difficulty hearing and responding to this voice?**

Say: **This morning we are going to study about a king who took a while to acknowledge what the Holy Spirit was trying to communicate to him through dreams. But God kept working with him until he got the message. Then he praised God. Our power text, Proverbs 11:2, reminds us that,**

"When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom" (Proverbs 11:2).

The Holy Spirit helps us to choose to walk humbly in wisdom. Therefore,

We praise God for the Holy Spirit's work in our lives.

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles

A Still Small Voice

Have everyone sit in a circle. Say: **I am going to start by giving the person next to me a message. When you get the message pass it on to the next person. You must whisper so that no one else can hear what you are saying. When it has gone round the circle the last person says the message out loud.** After they have given the message, say the original message. Repeat a number of times.

Debriefing

Ask: **What happened here?** (Encourage responses.) **What could have helped you hear the whisper more clearly?**

Say: **We can mess up a lot of things when we listen to other people instead of God, His Word, and His Spirit. When we ask for His help, the Holy Spirit speaks to each one of us and always leads us in the right direction. We never have to worry about getting a wrong message from the Spirit.**

Say: **Let's find and read Isaiah 30:21 together. God has promised that if we listen, we will hear the voice of His Holy Spirit directing our lives. Today we are studying about someone who took awhile before he acknowledged God's direction in his life. But eventually he got the message. Our power text, Proverbs 11:2, reminds us that**

"When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom" (Proverbs 11:2).

The Holy Spirit helps us to choose to walk humbly in wisdom. Therefore,

We praise God for the Holy Spirit's work in our lives.

Prayer and Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"Oh, Magnify the Lord" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 12)
"How Excellent Your Name Is" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 17)
"Great Are You Lord" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 25)
"Seek Ye First" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 83)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use *Adventist Mission for Youth and Adults* (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. For the mission story, have a map of the world where the students can identify the location of the mission story and compare it to where they are. You could use pushpins to mark where the mission story takes place.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Say: **This week we learned about a king who had a hard time listening to God's voice and His instruction. One of the instructions God has given us is to bring our tithes and offerings to Him. We have the opportunity today to do what Nebuchadnezzar did not do, we can listen and obey by giving our offerings.**

Prayer

YOU NEED:
- ☐ index cards
- ☐ pencils

Distribute pencils and an index card to each student. Say: **Write something on the card that you would like others to pray for. Don't write your name. Remember that we do not need to limit our prayers to things we want to get from God, but He loves to hear us pray for ways we would like to be—such as more honest, humble, loving, joyful.** Collect the cards and put them in a container. Have each student draw one back out. Form a circle and have each student say a silent prayer for the request on the card and the anonymous person who wrote it. Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

Ask: **Have you ever awakened in the morning and been able to remember very clearly a dream you had the night before?** Say: **Our story today is about King Nebuchadnezzar, who woke up after a dream, knowing it was an important one. Perhaps a communication from God. But at first no one could tell him what it meant.**

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils

Experiencing the Story

Ask students to find Daniel 4 in their Bibles. Distribute paper and pencils to the students. Ask an adult who reads with expressiveness to read Daniel 4 aloud. Before the reader begins reading, ask students to draw two lines with their pencils—one down the center vertically, and one across the center horizontally—dividing the paper into four equal sections. Have them number the segments 1 through 4.

Say: **While our reader reads this chapter to us, we are going to illustrate the story in four parts. The reader will read an introduction (verses 1 through 3), and then you will begin your first illustration.** Just before narrator begins verse 4, alert the students that they should begin their first illustration (Daniel 4:4-8).

When the narrator has completed verse 8, have them pause and give the students another moment to complete their illustration. Then begin again, with the students beginning the second illustration (verses 9-18). Give them a moment after verse 18 to complete their illustration.

Have them begin their third illustration (verses 19-27). Give a moment for them to complete the illustration after the reading.

Have them begin their fourth illustration (verses 28-37). Give a moment for them to complete the illustration after the reading.

Say: **Let's share what we illustrated or what we thought was particularly important or interesting in each section of this story.** Have students explain their pictures or share other elements of each section that they found interesting.

Ask: **What was God trying to tell Nebuchadnezzar?** (that He alone was God; wanted Nebuchadnezzar to be humble and worship God) **How do we know Nebuchadnezzar didn't listen at first to the message the Holy Spirit was bringing him?** (He took all the credit to himself, even after the Holy Spirit had warned him in a dream.) **After Nebuchadnezzar had finally learned the lesson God was trying to teach him, what did he do?** (Refer to the power text—He praised God.)

Say: **Now turn your papers over. Let's look at Daniel 4:34-37 again. Notice the praise that Nebuchadnezzar gave to God after he had learned the lesson of God's greatness. Let's follow his example. On your paper, write one line of praise to God, particularly for the way He sends the Holy Spirit to work in your life. Then fold the paper over enough to cover up your line and pass the paper to the next person. That person will write another line of praise, fold the paper down again, and pass it to the next person. Let's continue this until the paper is filled up or it has been all the way around.** (Do this as one large group in a small church, or as smaller groups in a large church.)

After the praises have been written, have volunteers read the praises aloud.

Our power point is a reminder that

We praise God for the Holy Spirit's work in our lives.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles

Exploring the Bible

Divide students into five groups and give each group the following questions and Bible texts to find and read.

Say: **The Holy Spirit worked on Nebuchadnezzar's heart. Let's look at some other occasions in which the Holy Spirit communicated with people.**

Group 1: What was the role of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' birth? Matthew 1:20. How did the Holy Spirit participate in Jesus' baptism? Matthew 3:16.

Group 2: What did Jesus say the Holy Spirit would do for us? Luke 12:11, 12; John 14:16, 17, 26; John 16:7, 8, 13-15.

Group 3: When and how did the Holy Spirit first appear to Jesus' disciples? What happened as a result? Acts 2:1-8.

Group 4: How will a person act if they are being led by their sinful self? Galatians 5:19-21. How will a person act if they are being led by the Holy Spirit? Verses 22, 23.

Group 5: Where can the Holy Spirit live? How do you treat the place where the Holy Spirit lives? 1 Corinthians 6:19.

Allow time for each group to share their findings with the rest of the class and discuss the results.

Say: **The Holy Spirit is working in our lives today. He is the one God sends to teach us and guide us and to help us become more like Jesus.**

Let's say together the power text, Proverbs 11:2:

"When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom" (Proverbs 11:2).

Just as Nebuchadnezzar did,

We praise God for the Holy Spirit's work in our lives.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ suitcase
- ☐ heavy objects
- ☐ volunteer

Heavy Help

Prepare in advance a large suitcase filled with books, rocks, or other heavy objects. Be sure it is heavy enough that no student can lift it. Instruct the students that the object is to lift up the suitcase and hold it in the air for 30 seconds. Offer a "prize" for the student who accomplishes the goal. As the students are taking turns attempting to lift the suitcase, have a strong man come in.

The man will choose one of the students and whisper to him/her, **"I'll pick up the case for you and hold it up in the air and then you'll win the prize."** As the man holds the suitcase up and you declare a winner, there will be lots of grumbling.

Allow the students to voice their complaints.

Debriefing

Ask: **Why are you unhappy?**

Say: (name of student) **won fair and square. I said that the goal was to have the suitcase lifted up for 30 seconds and it was!** (name of man) **offered to help and** (name of student) **accepted!**

Ask: **How is this activity like what the Holy Spirit wants to do for us?**

Say: **Just like** (name of man), **the Holy Spirit is stronger than we are and has promised to work in our lives to do what we cannot.**

Close by giving a reward to each student and saying: **There is a reward for everyone who allows God's Holy Spirit to work in their lives.**

Therefore,

We praise God for the Holy Spirit's work in our lives.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:

- ☐ variety of sliced fruit in separate containers
- ☐ large bowl
- ☐ containers

* Fruit Salad

Invite students to share if they had the opportunity during the past week to communicate to someone the message of God's love. Ask: **What creative ways did you use to communicate to others that God loves them?**

Prepare in advance a variety of precut fruit in separate cointainers. Start pouring into the large bowl the contents of the containers with different kinds of fruit that were previously washed and sliced. As you mix the fruit pieces together in the bowl, talk about the fruits of the Spirit. Ask: **Do you realize that the more types of fruit we use in our salad, the more rich the flavor, color, and texture of the salad?** Say: **Similarly, the more we reflect the fruits of the Spirit in our lives, the richer the flavor of our Christian influence.** Make enough fruit salad so that each student could receive a medium-size portion to taste or take home. Divide up the fruit salad into small plastic containers and distribute to each student. As they eat their fruit salad, have students share personal experiences of how the Holy Spirit has been working in their lives to grow the fruits of the Spirit and to help them become more like Jesus. Ask them to share with their family the message they learned today.

Say: **Let's repeat our power point together:**

We praise God for the Holy Spirit's work in our lives.

* Be aware of any food allergies and adjust accordingly.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Say: **The Holy Sprit wants to work with us all, old or young, king or just an ordinary person. Let's invite Him to come into our lives today.**

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www .juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel =1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Daniel faces the lions. Our God who protects us in all situations is worthy of our worship.**

Notes

Student lesson

King on His Knees

Have you ever met someone who thought he was really cool? What turned you off was probably the bragging. When someone says, "I'm pretty awesome," you probably wish they'd be knocked down to size.

Nebuchadnezzar was that kind of person. True, he was one of the greatest rulers the world has ever known. The Bible calls him "king of kings" (Ezekiel 26:7). He defeated the greatest armies on earth. His building projects made him the talk of the world. He was something special, and he knew it.

God had a plan for this mighty man, and that was for him to humble himself and praise the God of heaven. After Daniel interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream about the image, the king said, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery" (Daniel 2:47). That was a step in the right direction, but it wasn't enough. Nebuchadnezzar couldn't stand the thought that his kingdom wouldn't last forever. That led to the golden image and eventually put Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in a hot furnace. When they were delivered, Nebuchadnezzar exclaimed, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego," yet his heart wasn't changed (Daniel 3:28).

But God hadn't given up on the king. Nebuchadnezzar had another disturbing dream, and naturally he called for Daniel. The king had seen an enormous tree in the middle of the earth. It grew until its top touched the sky, and it was visible everywhere on earth. Its leaves were beautiful, it gave lots of fruit, and animals and birds found shelter in and under its branches. Then a holy messenger came down from heaven and commanded that the tree be cut down. Its branches and leaves were to be stripped. Its fruit was to be scattered. The animals would flee. But a stump would be left in the ground.

"Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him live with the animals among the plants of the earth," the messenger said. "Let his mind be changed from that of a man and let him be given the mind of an animal, till seven times pass by for him" (Daniel 4:15, 16).

Daniel knew this referred to the king. He had become strong, and his greatness had grown until it reached to far parts of the earth. But he did not acknowledge God.

"You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals," interpreted Daniel. "You will eat grass like the ox and be drenched with the dew of heaven" (verse 25). Seven years would pass before Nebuchadnezzar would acknowledge that God rules over earthly kingdoms and gives them to anyone He wishes. And then, like the stump left in the ground, Nebuchadnezzar would be restored.

"Therefore, Your Majesty, be pleased to accept my advice," said Daniel. "Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. It may be that then your prosperity will continue" (verse 27).

For a while the king took Daniel's advice, but his heart had not changed. A year after the dream Nebuchadnezzar took a walk on the roof of his palace and looked about at his magnificent city. "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?" he bragged (verse 30).

The words were still on his lips when the prophecy was fulfilled. A voice from heaven said, "Your royal authority has been taken away from you. You will be driven from people and will live with the wild animals . . . " (verses 31, 32). At once, Nebuchadnezzar became completely insane. For seven years he was humbled before the entire world.

Seven years later Nebuchadnezzar's sanity returned, and he publicly acknowledged the God of heaven. "Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble" (verse 37). Those are the last words about Nebuchadnezzar in the Bible. At last, when the king humbled himself, he recognized God as the King of the universe, who has power over our lives as well as over the events of history.

God lovingly pursues us until we, like Nebuchadnezzar, recognize Him as our Creator. When we invite God into our hearts, the Holy Spirit works to make us humble and faithful children of the King.

KEY REFERENCES

- Daniel 4
- *Prophets and Kings*, chap. 42, pp. 514-521
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 6, pp. 44-48
- Our Beliefs nos. 7, 18, 22

POWER TEXT

"When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom" (Proverbs 11:2).

POWER POINT

We praise God for the Holy Spirit's work in our lives.







Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 61.

Sunday

READ Read Daniel 4:1-3 and this week's story, "King on His Knees."

MAKE Bring in a tree branch and attach to it the power text, Proverbs 11:2. Place it where you can see it often.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray that you will listen when God speaks.

Monday

READ Read Daniel 4:4–9 and Isaiah 30:21.

THINK What are some ways of communication?

SHARE Today, communicate to someone in a creative way the message of God's love.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to send the Holy Spirit and show you what He needs to change in your life.

Tuesday

READ Read Daniel 4:10–18.

CREATE Creatively illustrate Nebuchadnezzar's vision.

LIST In your Bible study journal, list other symbols God has used to communicate with people.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray for your country's leaders and other people in authority, that they will listen to the Holy Spirit.

Wednesday

READ Read Daniel 4:19–27.

THINK How did Daniel explain to the king the conditions for receiving God's forgiveness? (See verse 27.)

WALK Take a walk in a park and look at the trees. Compare Nebuchadnezzar's vision to Matthew 13:31, 32.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for the Holy Spirit's work in you.

Thursday

READ Read Daniel 4:28–33.

RESEARCH Learn about how amazingly God created the human brain or the universe.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for the abilities He has given you.

Friday

READ Read Daniel 4:34–37.

INTERVIEW With a friend or someone in your family, role-play an interview between a reporter and Nebuchadnezzar.

MAKE Make fruit salad for your family for supper and read Galatians 5:22, 23 to them.

REPEAT Say the power text aloud from memory.

PRAY Thank God for what He has helped you accomplish. Ask for His help so that your life may reflect the fruits of the Spirit.