



Ten-Minute Family Devotional

week seventy four

The Glory Belongs to God Along

Pick a few blades of grass from your lawn, one for each of your children. (Use grass that has not been treated with chemicals. Perhaps you will want to wash it anyway, just to be safe.) Pass out the grass and invite your children to taste it.

Grass contains some vitamins that provide a bit of nutritional value, but people cannot digest the cellulose fiber in grass. Bacteria that break down the cellulose fiber live in animals that eat grass to help them digest it. Your children can get the flavor of grass without swallowing it by biting down on a blade of grass, releasing some of its flavor.

Say, "This week you will learn how god humbled King Nebuchadnezzar and had him eat grass like the cattle of the field."

day one

Picture It

There once was a zookeeper who worked with the snakes in the snake house. Most of the snakes in the zoo were harmless, but the large king cobra that was about ten feet long was very dangerous. At first the zookeeper took special care around the large snake; but because the snake's cage was large and the snake liked to stay hidden under a log, the keeper became careless over time.

One day the snake pretended to be asleep, but when the keeper opened the cage and reached in to change the cobra's water, the snake lunged out to bite his hand. Luckily for the

keeper, the snake's fangs hit the keeper's wristwatch. With lightning speed the keepers pulled his hand back before the snake could strike again.

Now what do you think the keeper will do next time he needs to change the king cobra's water? Our story today is not about a king cobra, but it is about a king. The last time King Nebuchadnezzar had called together his wise men to interpret his dream, they had almost been killed. Let's see how careful they are this time with the king's dream.



Read Daniel 3:1 – 8.

Think About It Some More

When King Nebuchadnezzar called his wise men together to interpret his dream, none of them dared to try and guess. Remember the last time the king demanded they give him both the interpretation and the dream? When they could not, the king struck out against them and issued a decree that they all be killed. (Happily for them, Daniel asked that they be spared.) That's probably why none of them would even try to give the king an interpretation this time: they were all afraid!

When Daniel arrived, the king was sure that he would be able to interpret the dream. But if you look closely to what Nebuchadnezzar said to Daniel, you can see that the king was still worshipping false gods. Even though he saw how Daniel's God had protected the three men in the furnace and how Daniel had been able to give him both his dreams and the interpretation, Nebuchadnezzar still worshiped his false gods. He even changed Daniel's name to Belteshazzar, after his favorite false god.

Talk About It

Why didn't the king's wise men try to guess what his dream was about?

They had gotten into trouble for lying to the king before. They would rather admit they couldn't interpret the dream than give a fake interpretation. It seemed like they had learned their lesson.

Nebuchadnezzar called Daniel "chief of the magicians." What kind of magic did Daniel use to interpret the king's dreams?

Daniel didn't use magic. The king had forgotten that Daniel said, "There is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries" (Daniel 2:28).

What is wrong with what Nebuchadnezzar said to Daniel in verse 18?

Parents, if your children can't read verse 18, reread it yourself and emphasize the word "gods" to see if your children can pick up that Daniel only worshipped one God. Nebuchadnezzar was lumping Daniel's god in with all the false gods.

Pray About It

Ask god to help you trust in the Lord and not be slow to believe like Nebuchadnezzar.

day two

Remember It

What do you remember about yesterday's story? What do you think is going to happen today?



Read Daniel 4:19 – 26.

Think About It Some More

When God gave him the interpretation of the king's dream, Daniel was concerned because it was bad news for the king. The tree in the dream represented the king whom God was going to cut down. He would drive the king away from men to live with the beasts of the field, to eat grass like an ox. That is not exactly an easy message to give to a king who had recently thrown people into a blazing hot furnace.

Talk About It

If you were Daniel, why would you be afraid to tell the king the meaning of his dream?

The king had the power to kill Daniel. It took courage for Daniel to tell the king the truth.

Why do you think God was going to punish the king?

One thing we know is that in spite of all God had done to show his power, the king was still following false gods.

What was God trying to teach Nebuchadnezzar?

If your children can't come up with the answer, reread verse 25. God wanted to teach Nebuchadnezzar that he, not the king, was the ruler over all.

Pray About It

Praise God for how he rules over everyone and everything.

day three

Connect It To Jesus

Can anyone guess how our story is about Jesus or points forward to him?



Read Daniel 4:27 – 33.

Think About It Some More

Daniel told the king to obey God's commands—to stop sinning and practice righteousness. But even if the king wanted to stop sinning, he would not be able to. And if he could stop sinning, he would still be guilty of all the bad things he had already done, and would still need to be punished for his sin. What the king really needed was to give up and call out to God for mercy.

We are all sinners. We continue to sin no matter how hard we try not to. Plus, all the good things we do cannot cover up the bad things we have already done. Our only hope is to call out to God to save us. God has provided a way for us to be forgiven by sending his Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. It is only when we trust in the good work of Jesus on the cross that we can be saved.

Talk About It

What can we do on our own to take away our sin?

There is nothing we can do ourselves to take our sins away.

What did God do to take our sins away?

God sent his only Son to die on the cross and take our punishment so our sins could be forgiven.

What does God want us to do?

God wants us to believe in Jesus and place our hope and trust in him.

Pray About It

Ask God to help you put your trust in Jesus.

day four

Remember It

What has God been teaching you this week through our Bible story?



Read Daniel 4:34 – 37.

Think About It Some More

Everything happened to Nebuchadnezzar just as his dream predicted. Nebuchadnezzar was driven away to eat grass like the cattle in the field. It took a while, but Nebuchadnezzar finally realized that nothing was going to change unless he admitted that God was greater than he was.

Finally, Nebuchadnezzar admitted that God was in charge, not him. Once Nebuchadnezzar turned from his sin and called out to God with faith to believe, God restored his kingdom. Then Nebuchadnezzar worshiped Daniel's God, calling the Lord the "King of heaven."

Talk About It

KIDS, ask your parents if they can remember a time when God humbled them.

Parents, we all have stories of how God humbled us. Perhaps you thought you were a shoe-in for a particular job and boasted as though it was yours for the taking, only to find out the job was given to someone else. Or maybe you boasted about how you could beat someone in a game, but in the end you lost. It is helpful for us to share the stories of our failures with our children and how God used them to help us.

Read James 4:6 and describes how it fits our story this week.

When Nebuchadnezzar was proud God opposed him, but once he humbled himself and called out to God, God gave him grace and returned him to power.

What can we learn about God from Nebuchadnezzar's prayer?

Parents, reread Nebuchadnezzar's prayer in verses 34 and 35. Have your children raise their hands when they hear something we can learn from the king's prayer.

What will God do to us if we become proud?

Read 1 Peter 5:5 to help your children see that God requires that we live humble lives, doing what God wants us to do, not what we want to do.

Pray about It

Ask God to help you live a humble life.

day five

Discover It

Today we look at a passage from a psalm or one of the prophets to see what we can learn from it about Jesus.



Read Psalm 118:19 – 24 and Acts 4:11 – 12.

Think About It Some More

To erect a stone building, first a large pile of stones must be gathered and then the stones individually checked to see how they might fit together. Every now and then a stone that is cracked, or stained, or too small cannot be used. That stone is then thrown away—rejected.

This psalm tells of a rejected stone that God used as the most important stone of all, the cornerstone. Peter told the Jews that Jesus was the stone that they rejected, but God used him as the cornerstone. Peter went on to say that Jesus is the only way any of us can be saved. Once again, like the stone from Nebuchadnezzar's dream, Jesus is compared to a stone.

Talk About It

Who is the stone mentioned in Psalm 118:22?

Jesus is the stone mentioned in Psalm 118:22.

What is a cornerstone?

A cornerstone is the first stone that is laid when constructing a building. The entire foundation of the building must line up to the cornerstone in order for the building to be strong and solid.

Look back at Psalm 118:19–24. What other words do you see that remind you of Jesus?

Parents, you can reread the passage for smaller children and have them raise their hands if they hear a word like “righteousness” and “salvation”.

Pray About It

Do what Psalm 118:24 tells us to do: rejoice because Jesus, our cornerstone, has become our salvation. Praise him for rising from the dead so we could be saved.