

# DEADLY SE7EN

## Week 1: Pride

### Focus Scripture

Daniel 4:4-37

### Main Point

God rejects the proud and blesses the humble.

### Introduction

*As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.*

**What distinguishes “good” pride from “bad” pride? Can you give an example of each?**

**Why is human pride so offensive to God?**

### Understanding

*Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.*

#### **Have a volunteer read Daniel 4:4-5.**

**What is the picture portrayed of Nebuchadnezzar in verse 4?**

The word “flourishing” describes a lifestyle that was luxuriant and lavish. It is from a word used of plants and trees—an appropriate metaphor for the ruler, especially in light of this chapter and his dream about the flourishing tree.

**Can you find any fault in Nebuchadnezzar in these verses?**

**Look ahead to verse 30. How does that verse shed light on Nebuchadnezzar’s problem?**

#### **Have a volunteer read Daniel 4:10-17.**

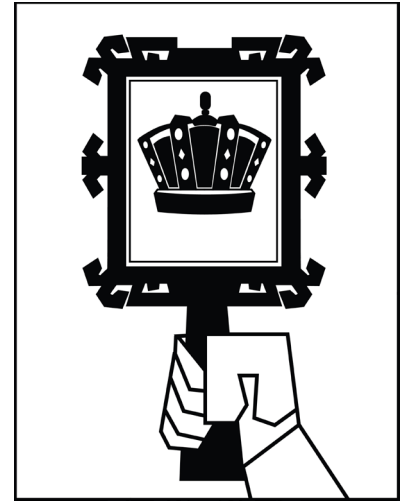
The king saw a very large flourishing tree that fed and sheltered many animals and birds. He heard an angel command that the tree be chopped down, its branches and leaves cut off, its fruit scattered, and its stump banded with iron and bronze. The angel announced that someone would live like a beast for “seven times” and then be restored.

**Nebuchadnezzar was a powerful man with extreme wealth and comfort, so why do you think he was terrified by his dream?**

#### **Have a volunteer read Daniel 4:20-27.**

**What is the message God intended to convey to Nebuchadnezzar in this dream?**

One of the key messages of this account is that God alone is sovereign and He shares His glory with no one. The cutting down of the tree



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symbolized Nebuchadnezzar's disgrace and removal from the throne, but the leaving of the stump was a promise that he would reign again. For seven years ("seven times"), the king would live like a beast, eating grass and feeling the forces of nature against his body.

### **Have a volunteer read Daniel 4:28-30.**

**How much time passed since the king had his disturbing dream and revelation from Daniel? What message is there for us regarding the passing of time related to God's warnings?**

**Nebuchadnezzar was warned of God's coming judgment and yet did nothing about it. Do you think he had a false sense of security? Why? What were the contributing factors?**

**What words and phrases in verses 28-30 indicate Nebuchadnezzar's beliefs and attitude? Why is pride such a problem for some people? How can we avoid problems of pride?**

### **Have a volunteer read Daniel 4:31-33.**

**Why do you think God reacted so quickly to Nebuchadnezzar's words after twelve months of allowing him to continue his life as usual?**

**How difficult does pride make it for us to find our way back to where God intended us to be? Why?**

### **Have a volunteer read Daniel 4:34-37.**

**What action on the part of Nebuchadnezzar led to his restoration?**

## **Application**

*Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.*

**Do you think you are vulnerable to the same feelings and attitudes of King Nebuchadnezzar? Why?**

**What can you do to protect yourself against the pitfalls of pride?**

**Has God been revealing anything to you regarding your own sense of pride? If so, what is the next step for you?**

## **Pray**

As you lead the group in prayer, ask God to reveal areas of pride that need attention in their lives.