



God Humbles Nebuchadnezzar

Daniel 4



LESSON GOAL

Students will humble themselves before God Most High.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to

- Describe Nebuchadnezzar's dream.
- Explain what God said He would do to Nebuchadnezzar.
- Analyze why Nebuchadnezzar was punished.
- Tell how Nebuchadnezzar was different after the seven years.

KEY VERSE

"They shall drive you from men, your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make you eat grass like oxen. They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses " (Daniel 4:25).

APPLICATION

- Repent of being prideful.
- Use God's blessings in a way that pleases Him.
- Trust that the Most High rules over earthly kingdoms.

NEXT WEEK

God Judges Belshazzar for His Pride
Read Daniel 5.

Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade Level

Teacher Planning Sheet

PREPARE

Objectives/Truths to cover this week

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Personal Application

As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to

- _____
- _____
- _____

Three ways students need to apply this passage are

- _____
- _____
- _____

POINT

Choose from various ideas to point students to the coming Bible lesson.

- _____
- _____

PROCLAIM

Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.

Presentation Ideas

- _____
- _____

Praise/Music Ideas

- _____
- _____
- _____

PRACTICE

Choose ideas to help review and apply today's lesson.

- _____
- _____

Materials Needed

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul....You shall teach them to your children” (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

God’s character did not change, even though the location of His people did. While in Babylon, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego continued to grow in their knowledge of God. Living in the midst of a pagan people and serving a pagan king gave the young men many opportunities to trust God. They trusted the Lord when they obeyed His Law and did not eat the king’s meat (Dan. 1), when they prayed that God would reveal the king’s dream and its meaning (Dan. 2), and when they refused to bow to the idol and were thrown into the fiery furnace (Dan. 3). The Lord proved Himself faithful again and again. Even though the Jews were under Gentile domination, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego experienced God’s power to preserve His people. God was not only the God of Israel, but He was—and is—the God of the whole earth. Unlike Daniel and his friends, King Nebuchadnezzar was slow to learn how great God is. When Daniel revealed the meaning his dream, Nebuchadnezzar confessed that Daniel’s “God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets” (Dan. 2:47). Although he confessed God’s greatness, Nebuchadnezzar still was full of pride. Before long, he commanded his officials to worship the idol he had erected. When Meshach, Shadrach, and Abed-Nego disobeyed, he threw them into the fiery furnace. The king was certain that no god could deliver the men from his hand (3:15). When God rescued his servants, Nebuchadnezzar again praised God. He said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him” (3:28). He even said, “There is no other God who can deliver like this” (3:29). Nebuchadnezzar should have understood that God is not only a great god, but the only great God. But Nebuchadnezzar was unwilling to give God the glory for his kingdom. Although it would take seven humiliating years, Nebuchadnezzar eventually would believe that “the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men” (4:17).

Nebuchadnezzar’s Letter (Daniel 4:1–3)

People throughout the Middle East must have been surprised by the letter that made its way throughout Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom (Dan. 4:1). The king began his letter with a clear purpose: “I thought it good to declare the signs and wonders that the Most High God has worked for me” (4:2). The people would have remembered that this same king had once called all his officials to worship the idol he had built. But now Nebuchadnezzar was testifying not to his own greatness, but to the greatness of God Most High. Instead of exalting his kingdom, Nebuchadnezzar exalted God, whose “kingdom is an everlasting kingdom” (4:3). Instead of wanting to be praised for his power, Nebuchadnezzar praised God, whose “dominion is from generation to generation” (4:3). The people must have wondered what had caused this change in proud Nebuchadnezzar. The letter went on to explain.

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream (Daniel 4:4–18)

To begin his testimony, Nebuchadnezzar took the recipients of the letter back at least eight years. He told what had happened when he had a terrifying dream. Although it is impossible to pinpoint the date of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, it is likely that as many as 30 years had passed since the building of the idol in Daniel 3. Nebuchadnezzar told how the troubling dream demolished the peace and rest he was experiencing while his kingdom flourished (Dan. 4:4–5). As he had done throughout the previous 30 years, Nebuchadnezzar called for "the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers" to interpret the dream (4:6–7). When the magicians failed, Nebuchadnezzar was confident that Daniel, whom he had named Belteshazzar (which means "Bel protect the king"), would be able to interpret it because God's Spirit was in him (4:8–9). Nebuchadnezzar had once put Daniel in charge of the wise men because Daniel had revealed through God's power both Nebuchadnezzar's dream and its meaning (2:24–45). Nebuchadnezzar hoped that Daniel, still the chief of the magicians, would once again be able to explain his dream (4:9). Nebuchadnezzar related the content of his dream to Daniel. The dream began with a vision of a tree, which became so massive that it was able to provide food and protection for all the birds and beasts (Dan. 4:10–12). The peaceful scene was demolished when an angel, "a watcher, a holy one," came down from heaven and proclaimed that the tree should be chopped down and stripped of its branches, forcing the animals in its protection to scatter (4:13–14). The tree was not to be completely destroyed, though. Instead, the stump and roots were to be left, and an iron and bronze band was to be set around the stump (4:15). The unsettling dream quickly became terrifying as the angel changed its proclamation from "it" to "him" (4:15). The tree was a symbol for a person. The person would be "wet with the dew of heaven" and would "graze with the beasts on the grass of the earth." Not only would this person act like an animal, but his mind would also be changed to that of an animal until "seven times" (seven years) had passed (4:16). The angel finished his pronouncement by saying that the angels had decreed (under God's sovereignty; 4:24) that this would happen "in order that the living may know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men" (4:17). After relating the terrifying dream to Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar waited for it to be explained (4:18).

Nebuchadnezzar's Warning (Daniel 4:19–27)

Daniel was "astonished for a time," shocked by the judgment Nebuchadnezzar was facing (Dan. 4:19). He was so troubled that the king had to encourage him not to be worried. Daniel began by saying that he wished that the dream applied to Nebuchadnezzar's enemies instead of Nebuchadnezzar. It had been easier for Daniel to identify the king as the head of gold (Dan. 2) than to identify him as the tree about to be chopped down.

But even though He was troubled by the interpretation, Daniel explained the dream. He said to the king, "The tree that you saw...it is you, O king, who have grown and become strong" (4:20–22). The first part of the dream pictured the king in his present power. But the dream also pictured the future. Daniel continued to tell the king "the decree of the Most High" (4:24), that the king would be driven from men and, like an animal, would live and sleep outside and eat grass. The king's horrifying humiliation would continue for seven years until he knew "that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses" (4:25). God's punishment was not without purpose. Nebuchadnezzar would be like an animal until he came to "know that Heaven rules" (4:26). When he would humble himself before God, his kingdom would be returned to him because God

was willing to let the stump and roots remain. Daniel pleaded with the king to receive the dream and its interpretation as a warning. He boldly advised the king: “Break off your sins by being righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor” (4:27). Unlike Jonah, who was out of touch with God’s sovereign mercy, Daniel was eager to see Nebuchadnezzar humble himself and obey God. Although he could make no promise, Daniel hoped that Nebuchadnezzar might experience a “lengthening of [his] prosperity” upon repentance (4:27).

Nebuchadnezzar’s Punishment (Daniel 4:28–33)

Nebuchadnezzar did not receive Daniel’s warning. Although God graciously granted him one year to respond to Daniel’s call for repentance, he would not bow his stiff neck and repent of his proud heart (Dan. 4:29–30). While walking about his palace, Nebuchadnezzar foolishly boasted, “Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?” (4:30). While exalting himself, Nebuchadnezzar heard a voice from heaven (perhaps belonging to an angel) announce, “The kingdom has departed from you!” (4:31). God’s judgment was about to fall on Nebuchadnezzar. That very hour, Nebuchadnezzar’s mind became like that of an animal. No longer able to live among men, he traded his palace for a field, his officials for cattle, his banquets for grass, his rich robes for hair matted like eagles’ feathers, and his elegance for nails overgrown and blackened like birds’ claws (4:33). The proud neck of Nebuchadnezzar hung in disgrace.

Nebuchadnezzar’s Praise (Daniel 4:34–37)

Although God could have left Nebuchadnezzar in his deranged state, He planned to have mercy on him. When the seven years had passed, He graciously allowed Nebuchadnezzar to lift his eyes in humility to heaven (Dan. 4:34). The Lord returned to Nebuchadnezzar his understanding, and Nebuchadnezzar “blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever” (4:34). In his letter to his kingdom, Nebuchadnezzar praised God, whose dominion is unending and before whom “the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing” (4:35). The king who dared to exalt himself above the King of kings learned that God “does according to His will,” among both angels and men. Men have no power to thwart God’s will.

Just as God had promised, the stump and roots were not destroyed. God returned Nebuchadnezzar to his kingdom (4:36). The king was even more majestic than before. Even more significant than his kingdom being restored is that Nebuchadnezzar’s heart was changed. In his letter, the king confessed, “Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice” (4:37). Nebuchadnezzar had no complaint against God for the judgment he had received. He ended his testimony with a warning to all: “Those who walk in pride He is able to put down” (4:37).

Conclusion

Nebuchadnezzar learned the hard way that “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6). He had been given visions from the Lord, had seen the Lord do miracles, and had been called on by Daniel to repent, but still Nebuchadnezzar would not humble himself before God. After seven miserable years of living like an animal, he finally repented and humbled himself before the Lord. The Lord was gracious to humble Nebuchadnezzar. Nebuchadnezzar finally learned that “the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He will” (Dan. 4:17).

POINT TO THE TRUTH

*“Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth”
(Psalm 78:1).*

This section includes questions to review last week’s lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week’s lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



Review Questions

Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.

What were the names of Daniel’s friends?

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego.

What did Nebuchadnezzar build?

King Nebuchadnezzar built a statue that was 90 feet tall.

What did the king require the people to do to the statue?

Nebuchadnezzar required that everyone bow down and worship the statue when they heard the instruments play.

What did Nebuchadnezzar say would happen to anyone who would not bow down and worship the idol?

The king said that anyone who did not bow down and worship the idol would be thrown into the fiery furnace and burned alive.

What had Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego decided to do when everyone else worshiped the statue?

They decided that it was better for them to obey God than to obey the king. They decided that they would not bow down when they heard the instruments play.

What did Nebuchadnezzar do to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego?

He had the furnace heated seven times hotter than normal and had Meshach, Shadrach, and Abed-Nego thrown into the fire.

What happened when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were thrown into the fire?

When they entered the fire, they were not burned. When the king and his men looked into the fire, they saw four men rather than three. They also saw that the men had not burned but were fine inside the fire.

What did the king do when he saw the four men in the fire?

Nebuchadnezzar said that the fourth person in the fire was like “the Son of God.” He called the men out of the fire and praised them for ignoring his word. He even said that if anyone said anything bad about God, they would be cut into small pieces. Nebuchadnezzar praised the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego.



Warning Signs

After Daniel interpreted King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, he warned him to repent of his sin (Dan. 4:27). Nebuchadnezzar should have listened to Daniel’s warning.

To help the students think about correct responses to warnings, bring in some pictures or symbols or warnings—various street signs, signs hung on private properties (“Beware of Dog,” etc.), medicine labels, poison stickers, etc. Show the students each sign, and then what the correct response is to its warning. Then ask them what the correct response is to a verse such as Daniel 4:27.



Who’s in Control?

King Nebuchadnezzar was so powerful that he became filled with pride and forgot his position under God. To illustrate this, bring to class a puppet, and have the puppet introduce himself to the students and then begin telling them how wonderful he is and what great things he has done. Remind the puppet that he could do nothing without you. Pretend to argue with the puppet about what he is able to do without you. Then pull your hand out of the puppet, and let the puppet hang limply. Read 1 Corinthians 4:7 to the students: “What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?” Remind them that we are nothing and can do nothing without God. In today’s lesson, we will learn about a king who forgot this and will see how God reminded him.



“The Big Tree” Review Game

Copy the tree image (at the back of the lesson) onto an overhead transparency. Cut the transparency, separating the tree from the stump, and tape it back together again. Next, project the image onto a wall covered with butcher paper. Divide the class into two teams. One team should be named “birds” and the other “fruit.” Bring bird and fruit stickers. Create review questions from the last few Daniel lessons. Whenever a student answers a question correctly, he can place a sticker for his team on the tree. The team with the most stickers wins. After the game is over, untape the transparency to “cut down” the tree as the tree in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream was cut down.



Big Pride and Little Humility

Bring to class some objects that are the same except for their size (for example, a small apple and a large apple, a small picture frame and a large picture frame, etc.). Show the students the pairs of items, and ask them what the difference is between them. Bring in a magnifying glass, and have some students look through the wrong end to see how small things appear. Explain that when we are proud, we make ourselves out to be bigger than we really are; we focus all our attention on ourselves. Humility, on the other hand, makes God out to be big. It focuses attention on Him and not on self. In today’s lesson we will learn about a proud man and how God humbled him.

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

“Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done” (Psalm 78:4).

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students’ understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

Have you ever taken credit for something that God has done? Have you ever said that you did something by your own strength rather than giving the glory to God? God wants us to give Him glory for all that He has done. We can do nothing on our own. In today’s lesson we will see just how much God wants people to be humble and to give Him the glory.



Leadoff Questions (LOQs)

LOQ: How did Nebuchadnezzar get the message out about all that God had done?

Answer: He wrote a letter and sent it throughout his kingdom.

LOQ: What did Nebuchadnezzar ask Daniel to do?

Answer: The king had another dream and wanted Daniel to tell him what the dream meant.

LOQ: What was the dream about?

Answer: Nebuchadnezzar saw a large tree that provided food and protection for all the birds and beasts. An angel came and said that it was to be chopped down and stripped of its branches. That would force all the animals to scatter.

LOQ: Was the tree going to die?

Answer: No. The tree would not die because its stump would be protected. The stump and roots were to be left, and an iron and bronze band was to be put around the stump.

LOQ: Why was Nebuchadnezzar afraid of this dream’s interpretation?

Answer: The dream was about him and what would happen to him.

LOQ: How did this dream represent what would happen to Nebuchadnezzar?

Answer: Nebuchadnezzar would be covered with the dew in the morning and would graze like an animal and think like an animal. He would do this for seven years.

LOQ: Why was this going to happen to Nebuchadnezzar?

Answer: This would happen so everyone would know that the Most High God rules over earthly kingdoms, gives them to whomever He wills, and sets over them the lowest of men.

LOQ: What was Daniel's interpretation of the dream?

Answer: Daniel told the king that the first part of his dream represented the king's present strength. The second part of the dream pictured the future. Daniel told the king that he would become like an animal. He would be humbled before God for seven years. After seven years, the kingdom would be returned to him.

LOQ: What did Daniel warn the king?

Answer: Daniel warned the king that if he did not repent of his sin, these things would happen to him.

LOQ: Did the king listen and humble himself before God?

Answer: No, he did not receive the warning. Instead he boasted about all that he had done.

LOQ: What happened to the king?

Answer: Nebuchadnezzar's mind became like that of an animal. He traded his palace for a field, and his hair became matted like eagles' feathers. His nails became overgrown, and he ate grass like a beast.

LOQ: Did he stay that way?

Answer: Just as God had promised, after the seven years were up, he lifted his eyes humbly toward heaven. His senses came back to him, and he praised God.

Summary

King Nebuchadnezzar had been blessed greatly. He also had seen the work of the Lord and at times had even given Him praise. Nebuchadnezzar was still a proud man, though, and took the credit for himself rather than giving it to God. One night he had another dream. He asked Daniel to come and explain the dream. Daniel said that the dream represented the king and was a warning of what would happen if he did not humble himself. After being given a year to change his ways, Nebuchadnezzar again took credit for the blessings around him. Within the hour, God kept His promise and humbled the king. For seven years he was like an animal, living outside and eating grass. After the seven years were up, he came back to his senses. He lifted his eyes up to heaven and praised God. He decided to tell the kingdom about what God had done, so he wrote a letter and sent it out.

Application

King Nebuchadnezzar had been given the chance to be humble before the Lord, but instead he hardened his heart. It is easy for men to harden their hearts before the Lord because they are proud. God desires that people come to Him in humility, realizing that everything comes from His gracious hand.

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



Skit: Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Materials: pictures, overhead transparency sheets, king costume

Directions: Before class, find pictures that correspond to various aspects of Nebuchadnezzar's dream (listed below). Photocopy the pictures onto overhead transparencies. During class, have an assistant dress in a king costume and lie on a table as though he is asleep. As you teach, use an overhead projector to project scenes from Nebuchadnezzar's dream above his head.

- 3:10–11 large, tall tree
- 3:12a leaves and fruit
- 3:12b bird nest on branch, animals shaded below
- 3:13–14 ax
- 3:15 tree stump and roots
- 3:16 heart with a picture of a beast in the center
- 3:17 crown with "God Reigns" written on it



Act It Out

Act out the events from today's lesson. (This can be done in conjunction with the "Nebuchadnezzar's Dream" skit or alone.) Several actors will be needed for this skit. They are the narrator, Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar, magicians, astrologers, soothsayers. Identify who each person is by placing a name tag around his neck.

Praise and Worship

Create in Me a Clean Heart

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord

Make Me a Servant

My God Is So Great

This Is My Father's World

Trust and Obey

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" (Psalm 78:7).

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



2
3

"Dream Drawing"

Materials: copies of the "Dream Drawing" craft page, crayons

Directions: Give each student a copy of the craft page. Read Daniel 4:4–18, and have the class help you brainstorm for ideas of what to draw to represent Nebuchadnezzar's dream (on the right side of the page). Encourage the students to be creative while drawing their own trees to match the description in the passage. Then read Daniel's interpretation of the dream in Daniel 4:19–27. Again, brainstorm for ideas of symbols to draw to represent Nebuchadnezzar's punishment (on the left side of the page).



1
2

“Nebuchadnezzar’s Warning”

Materials: copies of the “Nebuchadnezzar’s Warning” craft page, scissors, glue, crayons

Directions: Give each student a copy of the craft page. Have the students cut out the shape along the solid lines and then fold the flaps in along the dotted line. Then have them glue the circles on the appropriate flaps to create a stoplight. They can color the surrounding area on the outside and inside of the craft black. They should color the circles yellow, red, and green. Discuss what each light means. Then read and discuss God’s messages to Nebuchadnezzar with the students.



“God Warns Nebuchadnezzar in a Dream”

Materials: copies of “God Warns Nebuchadnezzar in a Dream” craft pages, brads, scissors, crayons

Directions: Have students color the tree and decorate it with fruit and birds. Have each student cut out his tree and attach it to the stump using a brad. The tree will be able to fall over, leaving the stump.



“God Humbles Nebuchadnezzar”

Use this work sheet to reinforce the key truths of today’s lesson. The work sheet is located at the back of the lesson.



2
3

Journal Page: “Give God the Glory”

Give each student a copy of the journal page at the back of this lesson. The students can complete the page individually, in small groups, or at home.

Coloring Pages

Give each student a copy of the coloring pages at the back of the lesson. Students can color the pages in class or at home.



MEMORY VERSE

“But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: ‘God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble’” (James 4:6).

Dream Drawing

<p>Dream</p> <p>Daniel 4:4–18</p>	<p>Interpretation</p> <p>Daniel 4:19–27</p>
---	---

Nebuchadnezzar's Warning

Stop Pride

"Therefore, O King,
may my advice be accept-
able to you; break off your
sins by being righteous, and
your iniquities by showing
mercy to the poor. Perhaps
there may be a lengthening
of your prosperity"
(Daniel 4:27).

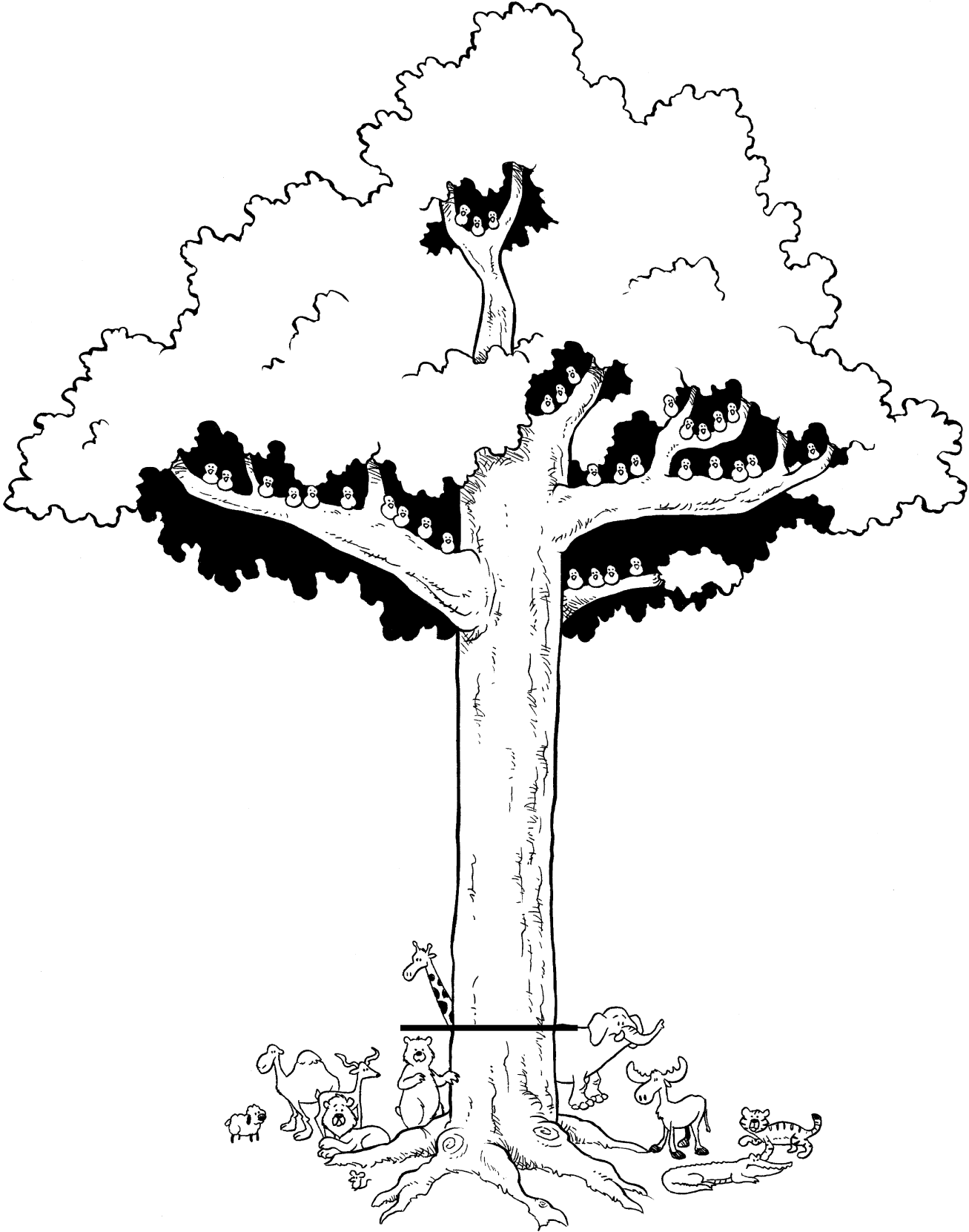
Be Humble

God Warns Nebuchadnezzar in a Dream

“These were the visions of my head while on my bed: I was looking, and behold, a tree in the midst of the earth, and its height was great. The tree grew and became strong; its height reached to the heavens, and it could be seen to the ends of all the earth. Its leaves were lovely, its fruit abundant, and in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, the birds of the heavens dwelt in its branches, and all flesh was fed from it” (Daniel 4:10–12).



God Warns Nebuchadnezzar in a Dream



God *Humbles* Nebuchadnezzar



Daniel 4

Name _____

1. True or False: Nebuchadnezzar's dream gave him peace. _____
2. Whom did God use to interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream? _____
3. After Daniel heard Nebuchadnezzar's dream, he was _____ (4:19).
4. The tree in the dream was _____.
5. Nebuchadnezzar would be punished by becoming like an _____ (4:25).
6. What did Daniel ask Nebuchadnezzar to do in Daniel 4:27? _____

7. What did Nebuchadnezzar do after the seven years? _____

Give God the Glory

“And at the end of the time, I Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever. For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’” (Daniel 4:34–35).

Are you the best skateboarder, the best student, or the best piano player? Maybe you are the best at something else. How do you feel about being the best at something? Nebuchadnezzar thought he was the best king and had built the best kingdom. Do you know why he was wrong? He was wrong because he gave himself the glory.

Fill in the missing words to verse 30 to find out what he said:

“Nebuchadnezzar said, ‘Is this not the great Babylon, that _____ have built for a royal dwelling by _____ mighty power and for the honor of _____ majesty?’” (Dan. 4:30).

This is an example of _____. **ERDIP** (*Unscramble the word.*)

In your own words, write in the space below how God changed Nebuchadnezzar’s prideful thinking.

Give God the Glory

“And at the end of the time, I Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever. For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’” (Daniel 4:34–35).

Are you the best skateboarder, the best student, or the best piano player? Maybe you are the best at something else. How do you feel about being the best at something? Nebuchadnezzar thought he was the best king and had built the best kingdom. Do you know why he was wrong? He was wrong because he gave himself the glory.

Fill in the missing words to verse 30 to find out what he said:

“Nebuchadnezzar said, ‘Is this not the great Babylon, that _____ have built for a royal dwelling by _____ mighty power and for the honor of _____ majesty?’” (Dan. 4:30).

This is an example of _____. **ERDIP** (*Unscramble the word.*)

In your own words, write in the space below how God changed Nebuchadnezzar’s prideful thinking.

Nebuchadnezzar learned the hard way that “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6). No one wants to learn the hard way. It is much easier to be truthful and acknowledge God. He gives people the ability to do things the best. He is the Almighty God.

Some of the great, amazing things that God has done are

I can do this really well:

_____ gave me the ability to do it well.

I can use my best to bring glory to Christ by

Nebuchadnezzar learned the hard way that “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6). No one wants to learn the hard way. It is much easier to be truthful and acknowledge God. He gives people the ability to do things the best. He is the Almighty God.

Some of the great, amazing things that God has done are

I can do this really well:

_____ gave me the ability to do it well.

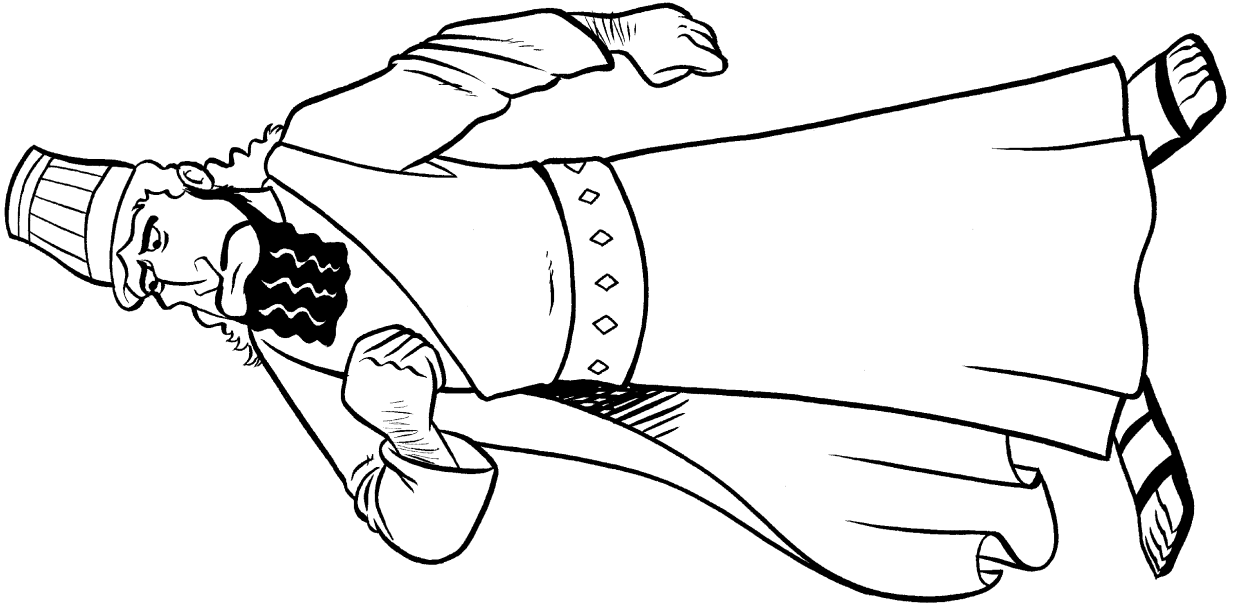
I can use my best to bring glory to Christ by

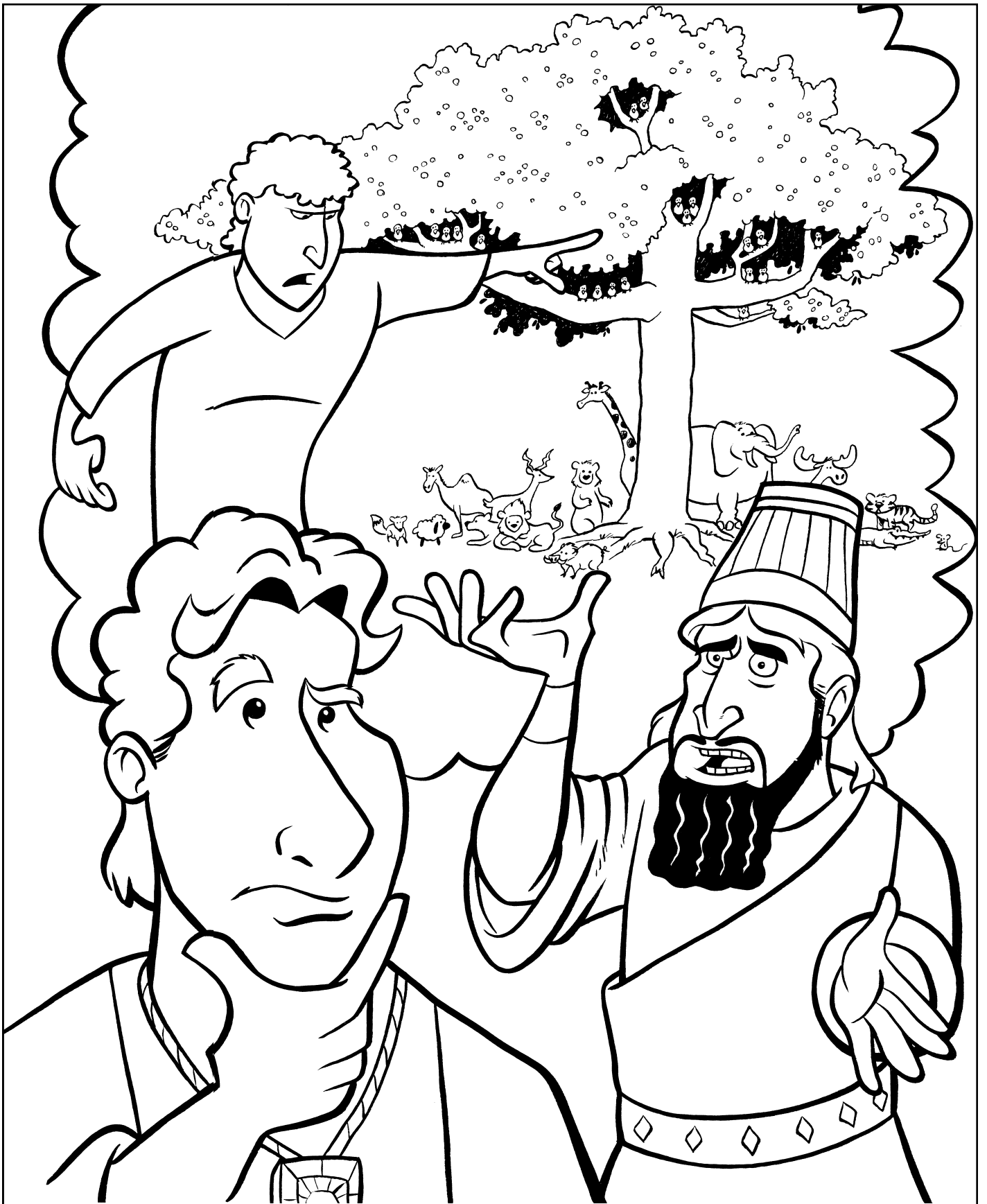
PRAYER

Give God glory for the great things He has done. Ask Him to help you have a humble heart, and ask Him to help you use your best to bring glory to His great name.

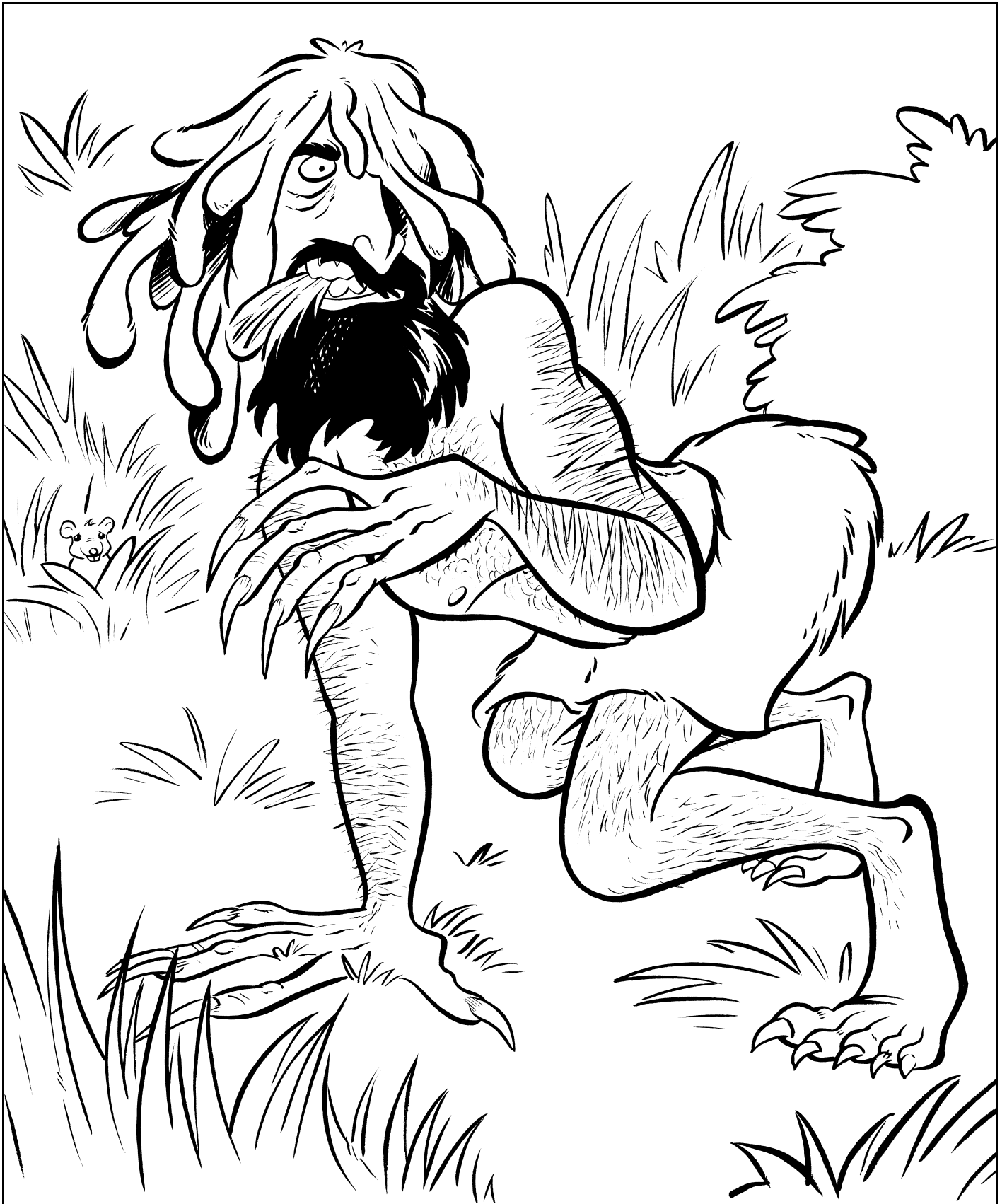
PRAYER

Give God glory for the great things He has done. Ask Him to help you have a humble heart, and ask Him to help you use your best to bring glory to His great name.





God used Daniel to interpret King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Because of Nebuchadnezzar's pride, God was going to punish him for seven years by driving him away from his kingdom and making his mind like an animal's (Daniel 4:23).



“They shall drive you from men, your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make you eat grass like oxen. They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses” (Daniel 4:25).

