SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Daniel

Chapter 4

Learning the Hard Way

MEMORY VERSE · DANIEL 4:37

"Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Daniel 4

This chapter is a proud king's own testimony of how God humbled him and then restored him. This week we see that the Most High rules, that God's warnings come wrapped in grace, and that one honest look toward heaven can begin a man's way back. No man has fallen so far that God cannot raise him.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The Complete Study, the O·I·A study, the slides and the film for this chapter are on the Daniel study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

At Ease in My Palace

READ · DANIEL 4:1–9

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How does Nebuchadnezzar open his letter to the whole earth (vv1–3), what was his life like when the dream came (v4), and whom did he finally turn to (vv8–9)?

REFLECT

The king starts by declaring “the signs and wonders which the Most High God has done for me” (v2). What has God done for you that you could tell another man this week?

REFLECT

The dream came when he was “at ease in my house” (v4). When life is going well for you, which spiritual habits are the first to slip, and why?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down three signs of God's goodness in your life, and thank Him for each one by name.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 4:37)

DAY 2 OF 5

The Tree and the Watcher

READ · DANIEL 4:10–18

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Describe the tree in verses 10–12. What did the watcher order done to it (vv14–16), what was left in the ground (v15), and what reason does verse 17 give?

REFLECT

The tree gave shade and food to everything around it (v12); the king saw himself as the one everyone depended on. Where are you tempted to believe that everything rides on you?

REFLECT

The stump was left "with its roots in the ground" (v15); even inside judgment God left hope. What has been cut down in your life, and what roots has God left that He can grow again?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray over the thing in your life that feels cut down, and ask God to show you the roots He has left.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 4:37)

DAY 3 OF 5

It Is You, O King

READ · DANIEL 4:19–27

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How did Daniel react before he gave the meaning (v19), what did he say plainly in verse 22, and what did he urge the king to do in verse 27?

REFLECT

Daniel was “appalled for a while” (v19) and wished the dream were about the king's enemies; he cared about the man who had carried him off. Who is a hard person in your life that God may be asking you to care about and pray for?

REFLECT

Daniel urged the king to “break away now from your sins by doing righteousness” and by “showing mercy to the poor” (v27). What one step of turning around do you keep putting off, and what would doing it now look like?

RESPOND — TODAY

Take the step you have been putting off, the call, the meeting, the confession, the amends, or set a time today to do it and tell a brother.

❐ READ IT ❐ PRAYED IT ❐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 4:37)

DAY 4 OF 5

Twelve Months Later

READ · DANIEL 4:28–33

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How long did God wait after the warning (v29), what did the king say on his roof (v30), and how quickly did the judgment come (vv31–33)?

REFLECT

Listen to the king on the roof: "which I myself have built" and "by the might of my power" (v30). Where are you tempted to stand over your life and say, look what I did?

REFLECT

God gave him "Twelve months" (v29) between the warning and the fall. What warning has God already given you, and what is it costing you to wait?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down one thing you are proud of, and beside it write how God made it possible. Thank Him for it out loud.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 4:37)

DAY 5 OF 5

I Raised My Eyes Toward Heaven

READ · DANIEL 4:34–37

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What was the first thing Nebuchadnezzar did at the end of that period (v34), what came back to him (vv34, 36), and what does he say about God in verses 34–37?

REFLECT

His restoration began when he “raised my eyes toward heaven” (v34). What would one honest look up toward God look like for you today, right where you are?

REFLECT

The king's last words are that God “is able to humble those who walk in pride” (v37). How is being humbled by God different from being crushed, and how does Jesus, who humbled Himself for us, show the difference?

RESPOND — TODAY

Several times today, stop, lift your eyes, and pray one sentence: Lord, You rule, and I am Yours.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 4:37)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

God gave Nebuchadnezzar a dream, a prophet and twelve months to turn around before the fall (vv19–29). Where have you seen God's patience with you, and how has it changed you?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Daniel told the most powerful man in the world the truth, with grief and with hope (vv19–27). How can we tell each other hard truth in this group the way Daniel did?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Nebuchadnezzar got back his mind and his kingdom, and more besides (v36). What does his story say to a man who thinks he has lost too much to come back?

MY PRAYER

King of heaven, I lift my eyes to You today and confess…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · DANIEL 4:37

"Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride."