

(Questions for Small Groups & Individuals - from Pastor Mark's sermon on 6-20-10)

The Book of Daniel – Chapter 4

“The Effect of Pride”

[Many of the questions have no right or wrong answer but are meant to promote discussion (or individual contemplation) about the scriptural principles involved. If you have difficult questions (that cannot be resolved in your small group), please feel free to contact Pastor Mark. **To the Small Group Facilitator:** There may not be time to discuss all of the questions. Always feel free to skip some questions so that you can focus on those that are most important for your group to discuss.]

READ Daniel 4:1-6 & Proverbs 6:16-19

Question #1: Pastor Mark said that chapter 4 was probably written 10 to 20 years after chapter 3. He said that the theme of this chapter is “the effect of pride”. He read these verses from Proverbs to show us that the number one thing that God hates is pride. Pastor Mark said that pride can cause people to resist salvation. He said pride can cause Christians to move far from God. As you consider the effect of pride in your life or in the life of others, have you seen examples of these effects? What are some other effects that you have seen?

READ Daniel 4:7-27

Question #2: Pastor Mark said that the point of the dream is to communicate who is in charge: God – not Nebuchadnezzar. He said that the point of us studying this is for each of us to realize who is in charge: God – not (fill in your name). In verse 19, Daniel is terrified to tell the King the interpretation of his dream – for he knows that it could cost him his life. And yet, Daniel is obedient to God and bravely tells the king his interpretation. Pastor Mark said that God might be calling you to do something that is not popular – like starting a Bible study at work or witnessing to your neighbors. Is there anyone in your small group who feels God calling them to do something like this? Share it with your small group so that they can support you.

READ Daniel 4:28-37 & Isaiah 14:12-15

Question #3: Pastor Mark said these verses in Isaiah shows why God hates pride so much. These verses tell us that pride is what caused Satan to fall. Pastor Mark gave us the following **Application:** “God uses hard times to shape and prepare us. When enduring hard times, pray that you learn what God wants you to learn and that the lesson is not wasted. *‘Do-overs’ are hard – and the stakes are usually raised.*” What are your thoughts as you consider this Application for you life?

ASSIGNMENT: Pastor Mark gave us a list of 4 ways to guard ourselves from pride. He then asked us to “find Bible references that support these four pursuits.” The next four questions will give you an opportunity to discuss this “Assignment”.

Question #4: Pastor Mark said that the first way to guard yourself from pride is: **worship** because it puts you in proper perspective to God. Share with your group Bible references that support this pursuit. How has worship helped you to guard yourself from pride?

Question #5: Pastor Mark said that the second way to guard yourself from pride is: **fellowship** because it provides support, encouragement and accountability. Share with your group Bible references that support this pursuit. In what ways have fellowship helped you to guard yourself from pride?

Question #6: Pastor Mark said that the third way to guard yourself from pride is: **stewardship** because you use appropriately the gifts that you have received from God. Share with your group Bible references that support this pursuit. How has stewardship helped you to guard yourself from pride?

Question #7: Pastor Mark said that the third way to guard yourself from pride is: **scholarship** because it causes you to know the Word. Share with your group Bible references that support this pursuit. In what ways have scholarship helped you to guard yourself from pride?