

Put Out to Pasture

Daniel 4; Prophets and Kings, pp. 514-521

Would you like to live in a field with cows and eat grass? A king once spent seven years living among the animals. This is how it happened. . . .

King Nebuchadnezzar was bothered by the dream of the great image. He was flattered and pleased that Babylon was first. But it worried him that other kingdoms came after his kingdom.

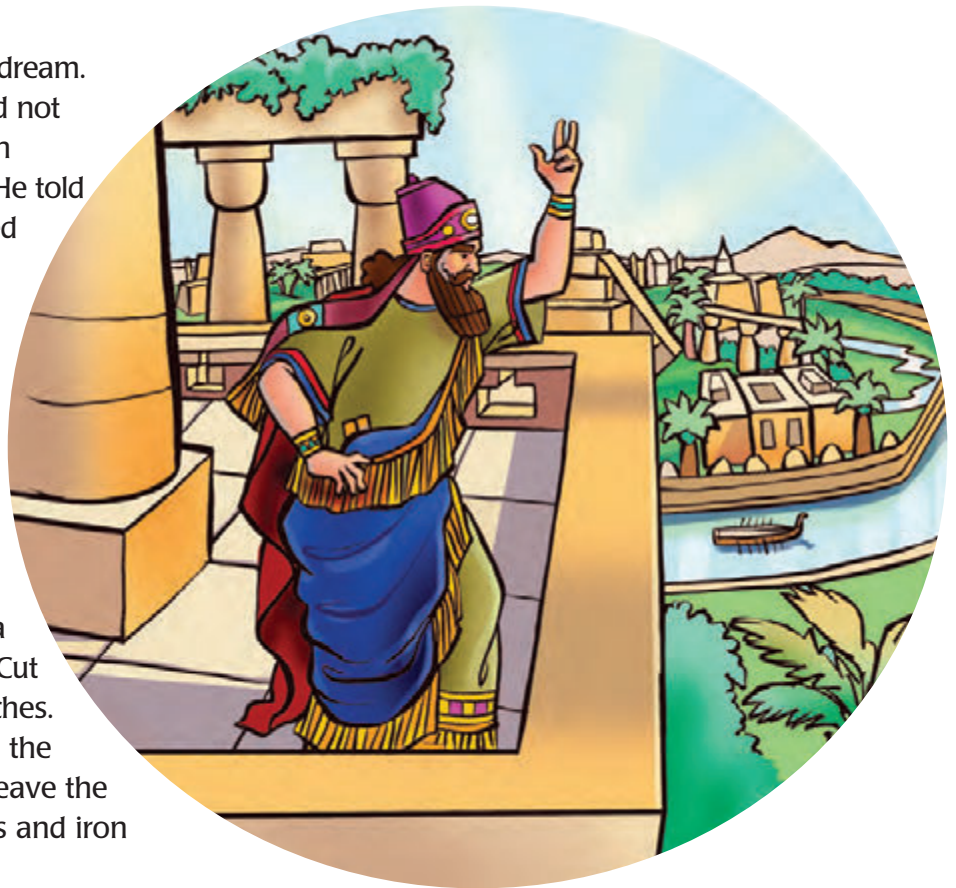
Then he had another strange dream. Nebuchadnezzar's wise men could not interpret the dream. So once again Nebuchadnezzar sent for Daniel. He told Daniel about his dream. It sounded like this:

"I dreamed of a large tree in the middle of a plain. It was enormous and seemed to reach up to heaven. The leaves were beautiful and the fruit plentiful. The birds made their home in its branches. And the animals sheltered under it. Then suddenly I saw a Holy One. I heard a loud voice from heaven saying: 'Cut down the tree. Trim off the branches. Tell the animals to run away and the birds to find another home. But leave the stump in the field and put a brass and iron band around it.'

"The voice continued: 'Let him be drenched with dew. Let him live with the animals. Let his mind be like an animal until seven times pass by.

'I have made this decision so that the living may know that God is ruler of all the kingdoms. And He gives them to whom He wants to.'"

When Daniel heard the dream, he was troubled. The meaning was plain to him. And it was not a pleasant message to deliver to the king. The king might become angry. But Nebuchadnezzar tried to reassure him. He just wanted to know what the dream meant.



Daniel knew that God wanted him to speak the truth. So he told the king that his dream was a warning from God. He explained that Nebuchadnezzar was the tree. He had become great, strong, and powerful. He ruled over many places. However, God saw his pride. If

The Message

*I can serve God
wherever I am.*

Nebuchadnezzar did not acknowledge Him as Lord, something strange and terrible would happen. He would become insane and live in the fields like an animal for seven years. At the end of that time he would become king again.

For a while Nebuchadnezzar thought about what Daniel had said. He put God first, but gradually he slipped back into his old ways.

A year later Nebuchadnezzar was walking on the roof of the royal palace. He looked at all the wonderful things around him. He swelled with pride. He smiled to himself. "Is not this great Babylon that I have built by my power and for the glory of my majesty?"

No sooner had he said these words than he heard a voice from heaven.

"Nebuchadnezzar, you will become like an animal. You will live out in the fields for seven years. At the end of that time you will acknowledge me as Lord. Then you will become king again."

It was just as God said. At the end of seven years



Memory Verse

*"Let your speech always
be with grace, . . . that you
may know how you ought
to answer each one"*

(Colossians 4:6, NKJV).

Nebuchadnezzar became sane again. He praised God as the ruler of the earth. His advisors and nobles came to talk with him. And he was made king once more.

It was hard for Daniel to deliver God's message to Nebuchadnezzar. But God was with him. And God will be with you as you serve Him wherever you are.

S A B B A T H

DO Serving others is a way of serving God. Help with Sabbath dinner and clean up.

DO Nebuchadnezzar was like the tall tree in his dream. If possible, go for a walk with your family. What is the tallest tree you can see?

DO Collect some leaves and press them by placing them between pages of an old telephone book. Save them for Thursday.

SING Sing songs about beautiful things God made and thank Him for them.

S U N D A Y

READ Read and discuss Daniel 4:1-18 for family worship today.

DO Count the number of trees around your house, or visit a park. How many varieties of trees can you find?

DO Take paper and crayon. Hold the paper against the bark of a tree and rub with the crayon. What happens?

DO Cut out leaf shapes and write one word of the memory verse on each leaf. Teach the verse to your family.

PRAY Thank God for variety and for trees.

M O N D A Y

READ During family worship, read and discuss Daniel 4:19-27.

THINK What is dew? When do you see it? Can you think of someone who used dew as a sign? (See Judges 6:36-40.)

DO Babylon was called one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Find out why. (Hint: Use an encyclopedia.)

PRAY Thank God for beautiful gardens and flowers.

Nebuchadnezzar wanted everyone to think he was a great ruler, but his power really came from God.



T U E S D A Y

READ Read and discuss Daniel 4:28-37 during family worship.

DO King Nebuchadnezzar wrote a hymn of praise. Try to write your own praise hymn.

MAKE Make a poster of things for which you want to praise God.

PRAY When you pray, praise God for His goodness.

W E D N E S D A Y

DO In the king's dream, birds lived in the branches of the big tree. Put out some food for the birds. How many birds come to eat today?

MAKE Make a picture of Nebuchadnezzar out in the field with the animals.

SING Sing "Dare to Be a Daniel" (Sing for Joy, No. 116). Ask God to help you to be as willing as Daniel was to serve Him.

THURSDAY

MAKE Use the leaves you pressed on Sabbath to make a card for someone.

DO During worship name some animals that Nebuchadnezzar may have been with in the field. Practice the animal sounds. Can your family guess what animals you are imitating?

DO Plan to visit a place where you can see animals.

PRAY Thank God for animals.



FRIDAY

DO Serve both God and your family by helping to get ready for Sabbath.

READ For family worship, read Daniel 4:1-37 and act it out together.

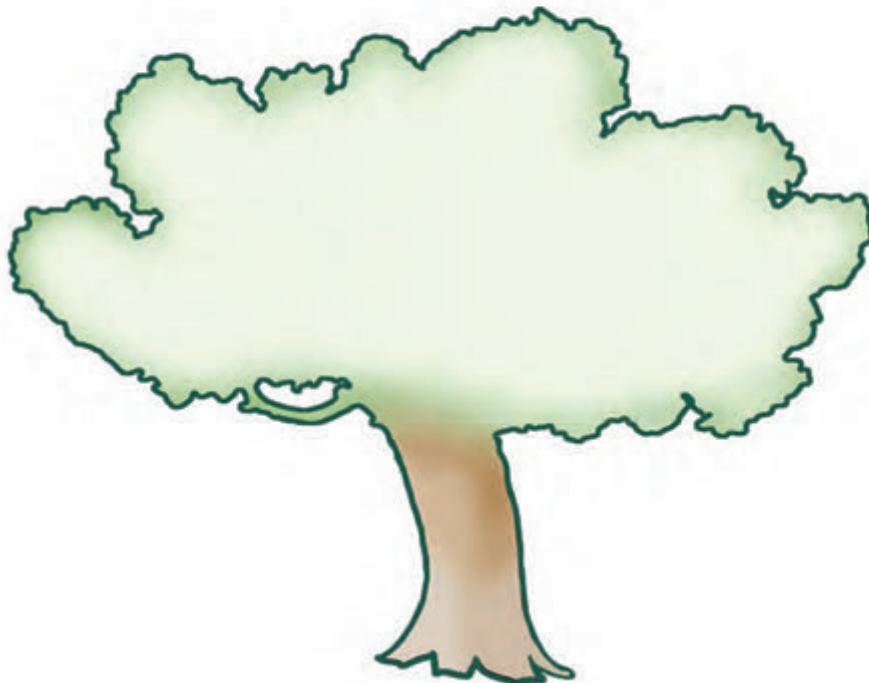
SING Say your memory verse together and sing favorite songs.

PRAY Pray for opportunities to serve God and others wherever you are.

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PUZZLE

Directions: Daniel 4:12 describes what was found on the tree in the king's dream. Draw pictures of each of them.



Messengers to the Community

Directions: Sharing God's Word with others is one way to serve Him. Unscramble the names of these messengers in the Bible. Read the text if you need help. Write the name and draw a picture of each.

1. An animal gave me my message.
MALABA (Numbers 22:21-34)



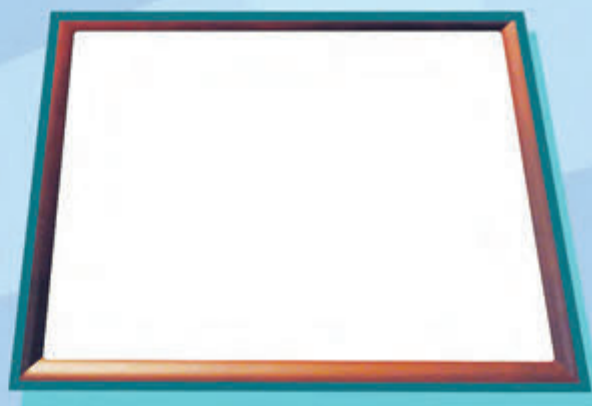
2. I brought King David bad news about his son.
SHEITUC (2 Samuel 18:31, 32)



3. I told a woman that God would answer her prayer.
LIE (1 Samuel 1:10-17)



4. I told a king that there would be no rain. **HIELAJ** (1 Kings 17:1)



5. I told Zechariah that he and Elizabeth were going to have a son. **LEGAN** (Luke 1:11-14)



6. The person that God wants to share his message today. **OYU** (Jeremiah 1:7)

