

# King on His Knees

*Have you ever met someone who thought he was really cool? What turned you off was probably the bragging. When someone says "I'm pretty awesome," you probably wish they'd be knocked down to size. (See Daniel 4; Prophets and Kings, pp. 514-521.)*

Nebuchadnezzar was that kind of person. True, he was one of the greatest rulers the world has ever known. The Bible calls him "king of kings" (Ezekiel 26:7). He defeated the greatest armies on earth. His building projects made him the talk of the world. He was something special, and he knew it.

God had a plan for this mighty man, and that was for him to humble himself and praise the

God of heaven. After Daniel interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's

## Sabbath

**Do** Do this week's activity on page 80.

## Sunday

**Read** Read "King on His Knees."

**Make** Make a tree or bring in a branch and attach the power text. Put it somewhere you will see it during the week.

**Learn** Begin to learn the power text.

**Pray** Pray that you will listen when God speaks.

# ELEVEN

## POWER POINT

### Monday

**Read** Read Daniel 4:1-9.

**Count** Count the number of ways that you can communicate to other people.

**Choose** Choose one method of communication and tell someone today that God loves them.

**Pray** Ask God to send the Holy Spirit to tell you what He needs to change in your life.

We praise God for the Holy Spirit's working in our lives.

## POWER TEXT

"Praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble"

(Daniel 4:37, NIV).

dream about the image, the king said, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings" (Daniel 2:47, NIV). That was a step in the right direction, but it wasn't enough. Nebuchadnezzar couldn't stand the thought that his kingdom wouldn't last forever. That led to the golden image and eventually put Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in a hot furnace. When they were delivered, Nebuchadnezzar exclaimed, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego," yet his heart wasn't changed (Daniel 3:28, NIV).

**Tuesday**

**Read** Read Daniel 4:10-18.

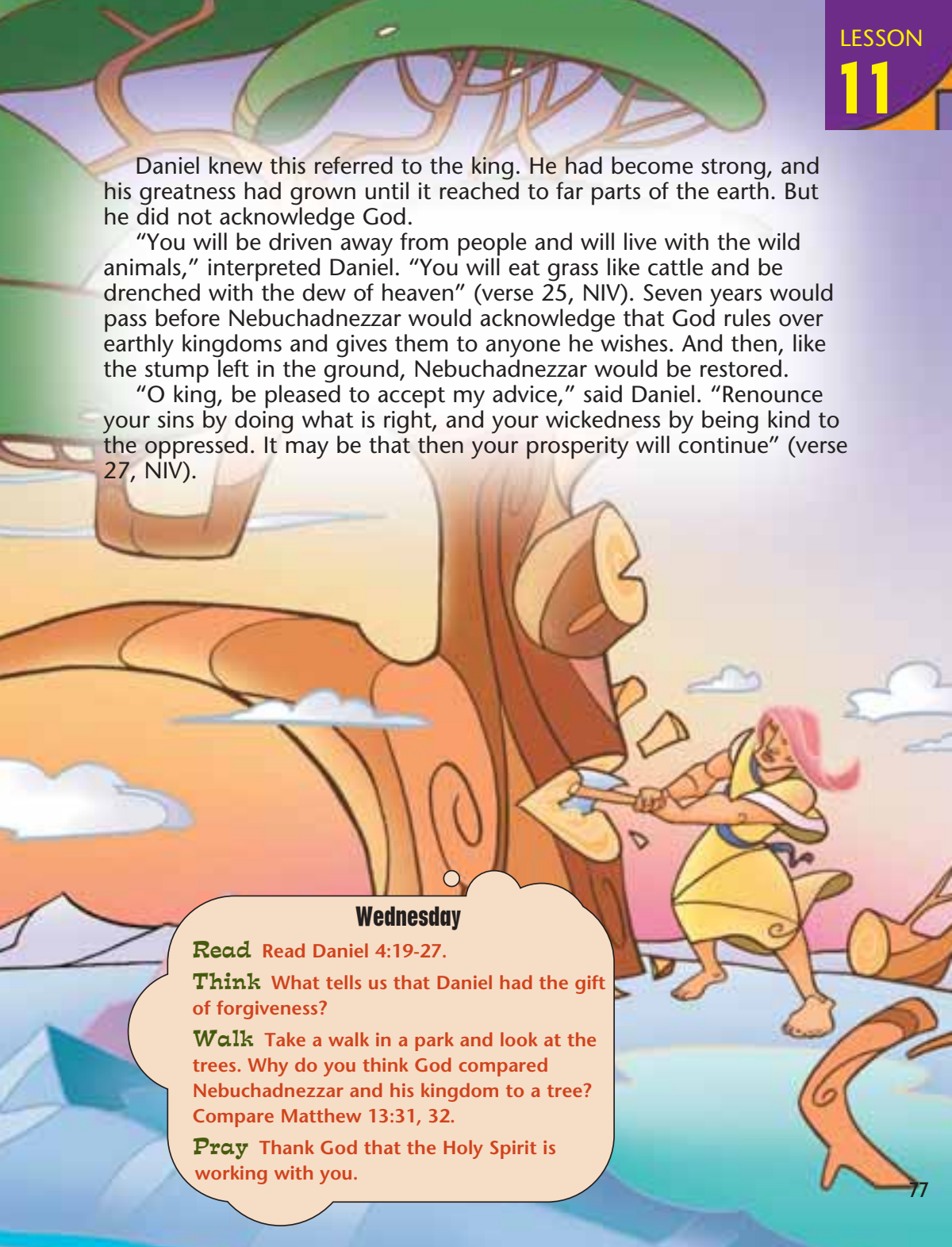
**Create** Draw, paint, or in some other way creatively reproduce what Nebuchadnezzar saw in his vision.

**List** In your Bible study journal, list other symbols God has used to communicate with people.

**Pray** Pray for your country's leaders and other people in authority, that they will listen to the Holy Spirit.

But God hadn't given up on the king. Nebuchadnezzar had another disturbing dream, and naturally he called for Daniel. The king had seen an enormous tree in the middle of the earth. It grew until its top touched the sky, and it was visible everywhere on earth. Its leaves were beautiful, it gave lots of fruit, and animals and birds found shelter in and under its branches. Then a holy messenger came down from heaven and commanded that the tree be cut down. Its branches and leaves were to be stripped. Its fruit was to be scattered. The animals would flee. But a stump would be left in the ground.

"Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him live with the animals among the plants of the earth," the messenger said. "Let his mind be changed from that of a man and let him be given the mind of an animal, till seven times pass by for him" (Daniel 4:15, 16, NIV).



Daniel knew this referred to the king. He had become strong, and his greatness had grown until it reached to far parts of the earth. But he did not acknowledge God.

“You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals,” interpreted Daniel. “You will eat grass like cattle and be drenched with the dew of heaven” (verse 25, NIV). Seven years would pass before Nebuchadnezzar would acknowledge that God rules over earthly kingdoms and gives them to anyone he wishes. And then, like the stump left in the ground, Nebuchadnezzar would be restored.

“O king, be pleased to accept my advice,” said Daniel. “Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. It may be that then your prosperity will continue” (verse 27, NIV).

### Wednesday

**Read** Read Daniel 4:19-27.

**Think** What tells us that Daniel had the gift of forgiveness?

**Walk** Take a walk in a park and look at the trees. Why do you think God compared Nebuchadnezzar and his kingdom to a tree? Compare Matthew 13:31, 32.

**Pray** Thank God that the Holy Spirit is working with you.

**Thursday**

**Read** Read Daniel 4:28-33.

**Research** Try to find information about the brain or about the stars.

**Think** Think about something good you have achieved.

**Pray** Thank God for the abilities He has given you.



For a while the king took Daniel's advice, but his heart had not changed. As months passed and nothing happened, he again became jealous of the kingdoms that would follow his. A year after the dream Nebuchadnezzar took a walk on the roof of his palace and looked about at his magnificent city. "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?" he bragged (verse 30, NIV).

The words were still on his lips when the prophecy was fulfilled. A voice from heaven said, "Your royal authority has been taken away from you. You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals" (verses 31, 32, NIV). At once, Nebuchadnezzar became completely insane. For seven years he was humbled before the entire world.

Seven years later Nebuchadnezzar's sanity returned, and he publicly acknowledged the God of heaven. "I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble" (verse 37, NIV). Those are the last words about Nebuchadnezzar in the Bible. At long last he'd had the change of heart God was after.

God keeps after us until we, like Nebuchadnezzar, acknowledge God's presence in our lives. As long as we want God to have a place in our lives, the Holy Spirit works with each of us individually to bring us into God's will.

### Friday

**Read** Read Daniel 4:34-37.

**Interview** With a friend or someone in your family, role-play an interview between a reporter and Nebuchadnezzar.

**Make** Make fruit salad for your family for supper and read Galatians 5:22, 23 to them.

**Pray** Thank God for what He has helped you accomplish. Ask Him to help the fruits of the Spirit continue to grow in your life.

## Good Gifts

Find the starting place and either go clockwise or counterclockwise skipping either 2, 3, 4, or 5 squares each time to spell out a Bible verse concerning one of God's great gifts to us.

If	heaven	gifts	you	give	to	then,	the	your
good								though
in								Holy
end								children,
give								you
Father								Spirit
him!								how
to								are
your								to
ask	how	will	who	know	more	those	evil,	much

## Treasures in Heaven

The vowels have been taken out of the following Bible verse. Can you replace them so that you can read the verse?

the letter a occurs 19 times

the letter e occurs 34 times

the letter i occurs 23 times

the letter o occurs 19 times

the letter u occurs 7 times

\_ n h \_ s gr \_ \_ t m \_ rcy h \_ h \_ s  
 g \_ v \_ n \_ s n \_ w b \_ rth \_ nt \_  
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 Chr \_ st fr \_ m th \_ d \_ \_ d, \_ nd \_ nt \_  
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 c \_ n n \_ v \_ r p \_ r \_ sh, sp \_ \_ l  
 \_ r f \_ d \_ \_ k \_ pt \_ n h \_ \_ v \_ n  
 f \_ r y \_ \_ , wh \_ thr \_ \_ gh f \_ th  
 \_ r \_ sh \_ \_ ld \_ d by G \_ d's p \_ w \_ r  
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