

Small Group Guide



Key Takeaways

- Admiring God and truly acknowledging God as sovereign are not the same thing. Nebuchadnezzar praised God after the fiery furnace but still had not surrendered to Him.
- Wealth, comfort, and ease are not automatically bad, but Scripture warns repeatedly that they can lead us to love the gifts more than the Giver.
- Pride is never merely a personal problem. It gives birth to unrighteousness, wickedness, and injustice.
- When humans reject God's rule and choose their own glory, they exchange the image of God for the image of a beast — lives ruled by appetite, consumption, and self-interest.
- The answer to pride is not trying harder. It is a humble dependence on God, asking Him to restore our humanity and renew our hearts by His Spirit.

Discussion Questions

1. What stood out to you most from this week's sermon? Was there anything that surprised you or challenged you?
2. The sermon opens with the observation that we should not confuse admiring God with truly acknowledging Him. What do you think the difference looks like in everyday life?
3. Jeff offered three diagnostic questions about wealth and blessing. Take a moment to reflect on each one honestly:
 - Are you humbled by what you have, or do you feel you deserve it?
 - Are you filled with gratitude for what God has given, or are you mostly focused on what you want next?

- Are you a generous conduit of God's blessings, or does it never feel like enough?

Which of these three questions is the hardest for you to sit with, and why?

4. Daniel 4:17 states that the purpose of Nebuchadnezzar's dream is so that the living may know God is sovereign over all kingdoms and rulers. Why do you think this is such a difficult truth for people — including believers — to genuinely rest in?
5. The sermon describes pride as never being just a personal problem, saying it "gives birth to unrighteousness, wickedness, and injustice." Can you think of examples — either from history, culture, or your own experience — where personal pride had consequences that extended beyond just the individual?
6. Pastor Jeff draws a connection between Nebuchadnezzar eating grass on all fours and Paul's words in Romans 1:21-23, which describe humans exchanging the glory of God for the image of beasts. The sermon describes this as lives ruled by appetite, consumption, and self-interest. Where do you see this pattern most clearly in the culture around you? Where do you see it most clearly in yourself?
7. The sermon offers a pointed list of questions about pride's quiet presence in our lives — things like what keeps us from singing wholeheartedly in worship, sharing struggles with others, praying out loud, or practicing radical generosity. Which of those questions landed hardest for you personally?
8. The sermon says that when we identify pride in ourselves, the answer is not to "shape up, try harder, be a good human." Instead, the answer is dependence on God. What does that kind of dependence actually look like in your daily rhythms? What would it look like to practice it this week?
9. Nebuchadnezzar's story ends with his reason and dignity being restored after he lifts his eyes toward heaven and acknowledges God's sovereignty (Daniel 4:34-37). What do you think it means practically for us to "lift our eyes" toward God in the middle of seasons of comfort, success, or self-sufficiency?
10. Is there an area of your life right now where you have been functioning more like a self-sufficient ruler than a dependent steward? What would it look like to surrender that area to God?