**“God’s in Charge, We’re Not”**

*Sermon Series: Following God in a Culture that Doesn’t #4*

Daniel

9.28.25

Big Idea: **Because God is sovereign and we are not, pride must be replaced with humility that acknowledges His greatness and depends on His rule.**

**D Group** **Leader’s Guide Version**

**(w/ prompts)**

**Hook (Warm-up: connect life to the theme)**

1. **Growing up, did you ever try to hula hoop? How long could you keep it going?**
   * Prompt: Lighthearted entry—almost everyone has tried. Transition to “life revolving around us.”
2. **The sermon described the ‘hula hoop life’ as living as if everything revolves around us. Where do you see this attitude most clearly in our culture today?**
   * Prompt: Social media, politics, careerism, consumerism, even religion.
3. **Why do you think pride is so appealing but also so dangerous in everyday life?**
   * Prompt: Pride promises control and recognition but blinds us to reality and shuts us off from God.

**Look (Dig into the passage and sermon)**

1. **Read Daniel 4:1–3. How would you describe the difference between Nebuchadnezzar at the beginning of Daniel and the man we see here?**
   * Prompt: Early Neb was arrogant, violent, self-worshiping; here he praises God, humbled by experience.
2. **What does Nebuchadnezzar’s dream (vv. 10–17) reveal about the danger of pride? How do you think Daniel felt when he had to deliver the hard truth?**
   * Prompt: Pride leads to downfall. Daniel models compassion while speaking truth—a tension for us too.
3. **In verses 29–33, Nebuchadnezzar takes credit for building Babylon. Why do you think it’s so easy to forget God’s role in our achievements?**
   * Prompt: Human tendency to self-credit. Hard work feels like *ours*. Culture reinforces self-made stories.
4. **What stands out to you about Nebuchadnezzar’s transformation in verses 34–37? How does humility bring clarity and sanity?**
   * Prompt: He literally regains his sanity when he looks up to God. Humility restores right perspective.
5. **The sermon reminded us: “God wants humility, not humiliation.” What’s the difference?**
   * Prompt: Humility is chosen submission; humiliation is imposed correction. God prefers the first but allows the second if necessary.

**Took (Apply to daily life)**

1. **Where are you most tempted to live in the “hula hoop life”—career, family, possessions, or even ministry?**
   * Prompt: Encourage honesty; this is personal.
2. **Daniel showed compassion toward Nebuchadnezzar even while speaking the hard truth. How can we balance compassion and conviction when dealing with pride in others?**
   * Prompt: Gentle confrontation, prayer, speaking with tears, not anger.
3. **The sermon gave two actions to overcome pride: Acknowledge God’s greatness and walk in humility. Which of these do you most need to grow in right now, and how could you start this week?**
   * Prompt: Journaling gratitude, prayer of dependence, acts of service.
4. **Read 1 Peter 5:5–6. What does humbling ourselves before God look like in practical, everyday terms?**
   * Prompt: Letting go of control, receiving correction, giving God credit, serving others before self.
5. **If you could rewrite Nebuchadnezzar’s testimony in your own words, what would your story of God humbling you and teaching you look like?**
   * Prompt: Think of moments of failure, weakness, or loss where God revealed His sovereignty and restored perspective.

**Resources to Highlight the Aspects of the Big Idea**

1. **Scripture Cross-References**
   * Proverbs 16:18 – “Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.”
   * James 4:6, 10 – God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.
   * 1 Peter 5:5–6 – Humble yourselves… He will lift you up in due time.
   * Luke 18:9–14 – Parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector.
2. **Classic Christian Writings**
   * C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, Book III, Ch. 8 “The Great Sin” – foundational on pride vs. humility.
   * Andrew Murray, *Humility* – short devotional classic on making humility central to discipleship.
3. **“The Humility of God – Philippians 2:5‑11”** — Grace Bible Church  
   A rich theological treatment of how humility is demonstrated in the nature of Christ, and how that becomes our pattern. [The Humility of God – Philippians 2:5-11 | Grace Bible Church](https://www.gracebibleny.org/humility_god_philippians_2511?utm_source)
4. **“The Way of Humility (Luke 14:1-14)”** — Sermon by R.C. Sproul  
   Not strictly an article but a sermon text/video that helps unpack how Christ’s instruction challenges worldly pride. <https://www.hopelife.org/watch/fqj6mfyqjzs-the-way-of-humility-luke-141-14--a-sermon-by-r-c-sproul/20230122/?utm_source>
5. **Be Humble (Kids’ video)** — Sermons4Kids  
   A short, animated video about humility (1:59) that might serve as a nice intro or supplemental clip for families or youth segments. <https://sermons4kids.com/video/be-humble?utm_source>