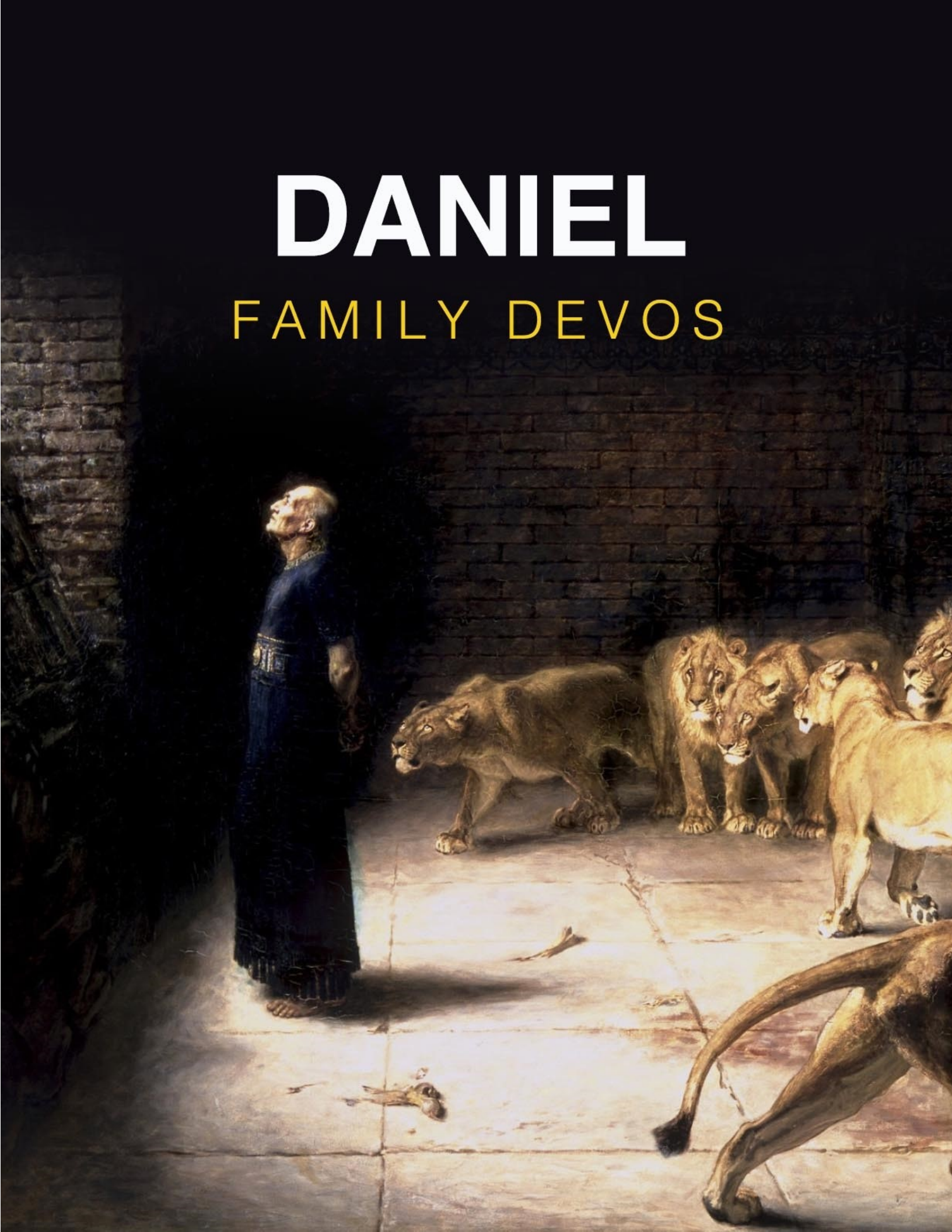


DANIEL

FAMILY DEVOS



A Humbled King

Scripture: Daniel 4

Memory Verse: Luke 14:11

“For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

For My Family:

Have you ever had to learn something the hard way? Maybe you were warned something was hot, but you touched it anyway and got burned, or maybe you got sick after you were told not to eat too much candy. Today we read that King Nebuchadnezzar learned an important lesson about the Most High God. It's a story about a stubborn and proud king who was a living example of our memory verse. When he exalted himself, he was humbled, but when he humbled himself, he was exalted.

Daniel 4 is thought to have taken place 20-30 years after Daniel 3. It's a letter written by the King Nebuchadnezzar himself about how the Most High God humbled him in his pride by causing him to live like an ox for seven years! Talk about learning something the hard way... Nebuchadnezzar was given a chance to do what was right and turn to God, but instead he filled his heart with pride. What is pride? Pride is that thing in our hearts that makes us feel like we are better than someone else. As King Nebuchadnezzar looked at his great kingdom, immeasurable wealth, the magnificent buildings and gardens in his city he said, “Look at what *I* have done in *my* power and majesty. *I* am amazing!”

God's voice silenced him from heaven and the king's dream came to pass. He ate grass and lived in the field for seven years! And you thought being grounded or put in time-out was bad... But by the end of this time, Nebuchadnezzar had learned his lesson: that “the Most High rules in the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever he chooses” (4:32). He was a humbled man who learned that there was a King much greater than he was who had given him his kingdom and power, and who could take it away at any moment.

And that's what humility is: to be brought low. It's the opposite of pride. To realize and admit your need for God and for others. It's as Jesus said, “*Without Me you can do nothing.*” We depend upon God for everything from the breath in our lungs to the beating of our hearts! Understanding this helps us brag about ourselves less and worship and praise God more, which is God's desire. He's not seeking to embarrass or humiliate us, He wants us to understand that He chooses to bless us with certain abilities to serve others and point people to Him, not ourselves. He wants us to worship and honor Him and invite others to do the same. So take the words of the king to heart, “Praise and extol and honor the King of heaven,” and know that “those who walk in pride He is able to put down (to humble).”

Questions for Young Children:

What is pride? What is humility?

What happened to King Nebuchadnezzar because of his pride?

What did the king do after he returned to normal?

Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

What is a time or situation in which you have been tempted to be proud?
(Parents, share from your own experiences as well.)

How does pride hurt others?

What lesson was God trying to get across to King Nebuchadnezzar and how does that apply to us? (See Daniel 4:17)

PRAY:

King Nebuchadnezzar. What an unlikely convert! Or is he? Even after witnessing miracles and wonders from God, he didn't turn to God until many years later. Is there anyone in your family that you sometimes just think will never turn to the Lord? Take time to pray for your unsaved family, friends, and neighbors together as a family, and be encouraged that God can draw even those who seem farthest away to Himself.