

WEEK 4

Nebuchadnezzar's Second Dream (Daniel 4)



Connect

Prepare: paper and any drawing pens (markers, crayons, pencils etc)

Everyone will try to be an artist today. Don't worry if you are not comfortable with drawing. We will just have fun. Give the materials to the kids. One person will start describing a scene and everybody will just draw what is being described.

There is a very big tree in the middle of the land. The tree is so big that it reached the sky. It has green leaves and has lots of fruits. There were animals resting under its shade and birds on its branches.

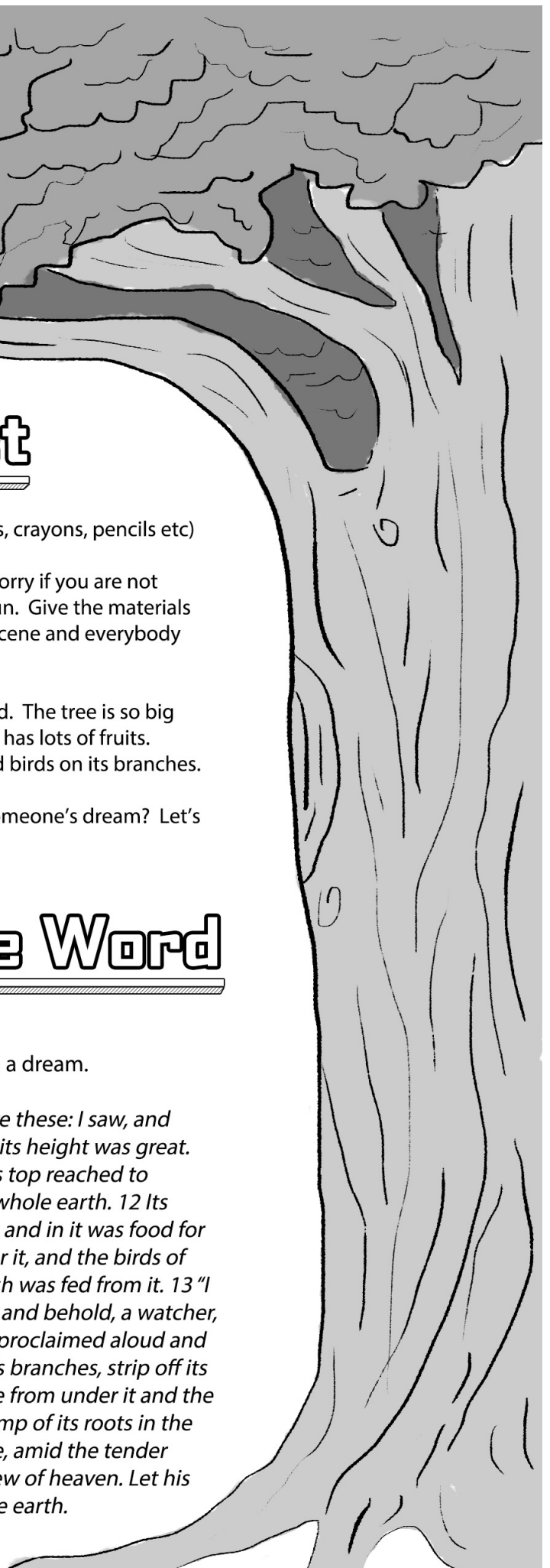
Do you know that this picture you drew was someone's dream? Let's read about it!



Read the Word

In Daniel 4, King Nebuchadnezzar again had a dream.

10 The visions of my head as I lay in bed were these: I saw, and behold, a tree in the midst of the earth, and its height was great. 11 The tree grew and became strong, and its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth. 12 Its leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, and the birds of the heavens lived in its branches, and all flesh was fed from it. 13 "I saw in the visions of my head as I lay in bed, and behold, a watcher, a holy one, came down from heaven. 14 He proclaimed aloud and said thus: 'Chop down the tree and lop off its branches, strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the beasts flee from under it and the birds from its branches. 15 But leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, amid the tender grass of the field. Let him be wet with the dew of heaven. Let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth.



16 Let his mind be changed from a man's, and let a beast's mind be given to him; and let seven periods of time pass over him. 17 The sentence is by the decree of the watchers, the decision by the word of the holy ones, to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.'

None of the wisemen at court could tell what the dream meant and Daniel was called to interpret the dream for him.

24 this is the interpretation, O king: It is a decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king, 25 that you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. You shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and you shall be wet with the dew of heaven, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will. 26 And as it was commanded to leave the stump of the roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be confirmed for you from the time that you know that Heaven rules. 27 Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you: break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity."

King Nebuchadnezzar was one of the most powerful rulers of his time. He had a vast empire and a strong army! What Daniel just told him were not words a king would want to hear! Yet that is what God revealed to Daniel. And a year later, just when the king was proudly admiring his kingdom, that very thing happened.

31 While the words were still in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, "O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you, 32 and you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will." 33 Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair grew as long as eagles' feathers, and his nails were like birds' claws.

King Nebuchadnezzar became like a madman! All his power and wealth cannot do anything for him. And as Daniel had prophesied a year earlier, his kingdom was only restored to him when he acknowledged the power of God.

The power of God is truly beyond any kingdom on this earth!



Parent to Kid

2-6 years old

- Can you picture what it would be like to meet a king? How would you act if a king were to come to our house?

7-12 years old

- Looking back at this year, what are some of the things you have achieved or accomplished? How do you feel about them? How do you think were you able to accomplish them?

Kid to Parent

- Is God really all-powerful?
- Do you always come to God for everything?

God is the only one to whom all kings will eventually bow down. Today, when you look around the world, all nations are going through difficult times. Even the most powerful nations are not exempt. This is a time when only the power of God can save. Only God can take you through your difficulties.

Let us come before Him and praise His name for He alone is sovereign over all things.



Dear Lord,

Thank You because you are all-powerful. You are truly worthy of our praise. Teach us to come before You with humility and teach us to call on You always. In Jesus' name,

Amen.



The Hanging Gardens of Babylon

Touted as one of the wonders of the ancient world, the famed hanging gardens of Babylon is a mystery.

Believed to have been built by King Nebuchadnezzar for his wife who was homesick for her country, the gardens were described as "lush vegetation cascaded like waterfalls down the terraces of the 75-foot-high garden. Exotic plants, herbs and flowers dazzled the eyes, and fragrances wafted through the towering botanical oasis dotted with statues and tall stone columns."

The actual existence of these gardens have yet to be proven as many historians who give detailed accounts of Nebuchadnezzar's reign fail to mention them. Many believe that the gardens were not actually in Babylon but in Nineveh and built not by Nebuchadnezzar but by the Assyrian king Sennacherib. Confusion arose when Nineveh was later referred to as the "New Babylon" when the Assyrian king conquered Babylon.

Regardless of which king built it, to be able to construct such a gargantuan monument back in those days was impressive. But sadly, it didn't stand the test of time. And as with all other man-made structures, no matter how grandiose or how impressive it is, it will one day be gone.

There is only one Kingdom that will last forever, only one Kingdom that will outlast all others and that is the kingdom of God in heaven and definitely, He is worth all our loyalty and worship!

Source: <https://www.history.com/news/hanging-gardens-existed-but-not-in-babylon>