

DANIEL

Servant of the Most High God

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum • Summer 2021

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LESSON 4

Scripture: Daniel 4:1-37

Memory Verse: Psalm 83:18

Then they will learn that you alone are called the Lord, that you alone are the Most High, supreme over all the earth.

*Unless otherwise noted, Scripture is from the New Living Translation of the book of Daniel.



LESSON 4: The Most High God Sets Up Kings

About seventeen years after Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego were rescued by God from the fiery furnace, King Nebuchadnezzar shared the most amazing story. This is what he said.

“I, Nebuchadnezzar, was living in my palace...I had a dream that frightened me.” (4:4-5) I called Babylon’s wise men to tell me what the dream meant. When they couldn’t interpret it for me I told the dream to Daniel. “ I said, ‘[Daniel], chief of the magicians, I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you, and that no mystery is too great for you to solve.’” (4:9) There was something different about this Daniel. I knew that he would understand my dream so I shared it with him. I had dreamed about an enormous tree that reached the sky and could be seen all over the earth. “I had fresh green leaves, and it was loaded with fruit for all to eat. Wild animals lived in its shade, and birds nested in its branches. All the world was fed from this tree.” (4:12)

Then a holy messenger came down from heaven and ordered that the tree be cut down. Not only that, the messenger ordered that the leaves be stripped off and the branches cut so that the animals could not take shelter under it anymore. Then, the messenger ordered the strangest thing. He ordered that a band of bronze and iron be wrapped around the stump that would be left there in the field. Then the messenger said something even stranger; he began to talk about a human being, not the tree! He said, “Now let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him live with the wild animals among the plants of the field. 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.” (4:15b-16 NIV) The messenger also said that all of this would happen so that everyone would know that the Most High God rules over all the kingdoms of this world and He can give them to whoever He wants to!

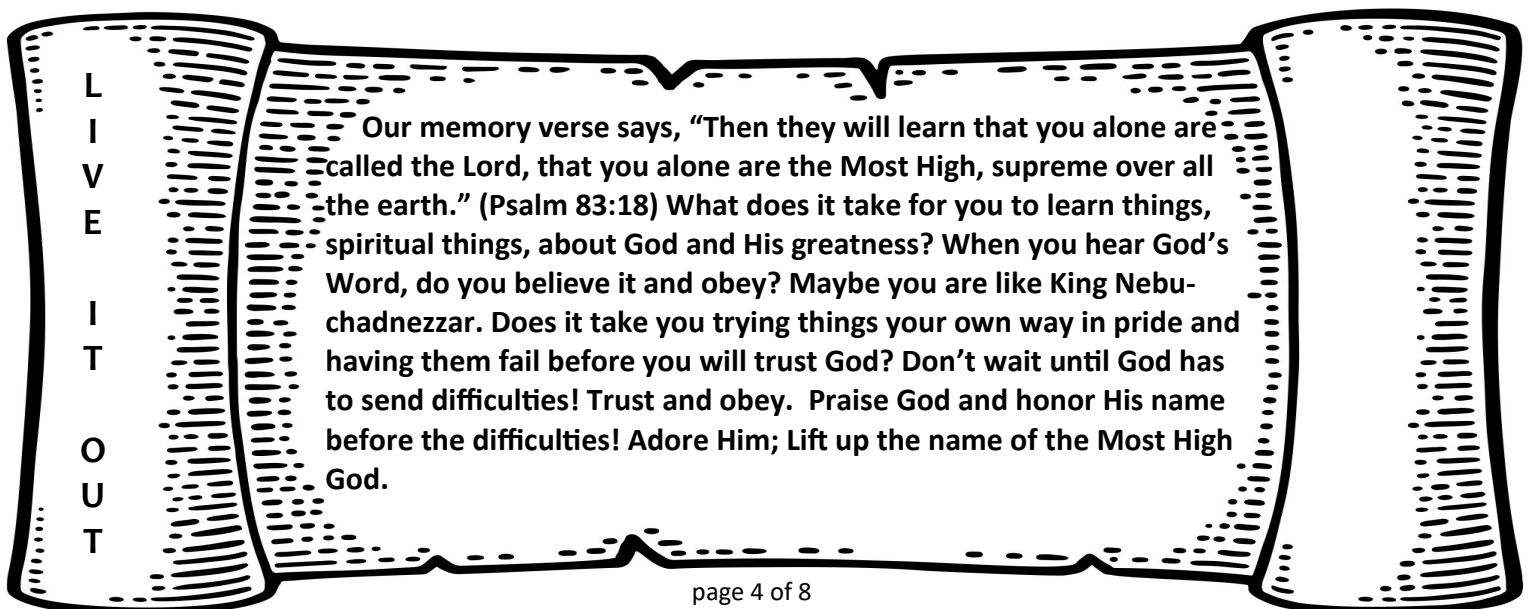
The interpretation of my dream upset Daniel so I tried to encourage him. Then he began by wishing the dream weren't for me personally, but for my enemies instead. Daniel told me, “Your Majesty, you are that tree!” (4:22 NIV) You will be driven away from people and live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the cow and be covered with the dew of heaven. You will be like this for seven years until you accept that the Most High God rules over all the kingdoms of this world and He can give them to whoever He wants. When you accept that, you will be like the stump in your dream that was left in the field. You will re-

ceive your kingdom again. Then Daniel added, “Your Majesty, please accept my advice. Stop sinning and do what is right.” (4:27a)

This dream may have bothered king Nebuchadnezzar for a while, but like most of us, he seemed to forget it, or at least he continued to focus on himself because one year later, as he was walking around on the roof of his palace he looked out and said, “Isn’t this the great Babylon I have built as a place for **my** royal palace? I used **my** mighty power to build it. It shows how glorious **my** majesty is.” (4:30 NIV) Did you notice how many times he said “I” or “my”? (five times) Me, me, me!

And then it happened. Immediately a voice from heaven pronounced judgment on King Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven away from the palace and the presence of other human beings! He lived with wild animals for seven years and ate grass just as they do!

“‘It is my pleasure to tell you about the miraculous signs and wonders that the Most High God has performed for me.’ (4:2) I, Nebuchadnezzar raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then, I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever because it is only God’s kingdom that never ends. God does whatever He wants to with ‘the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth.’ (4:35) And no one can stop Him. ‘Now 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.’ (4:37)”



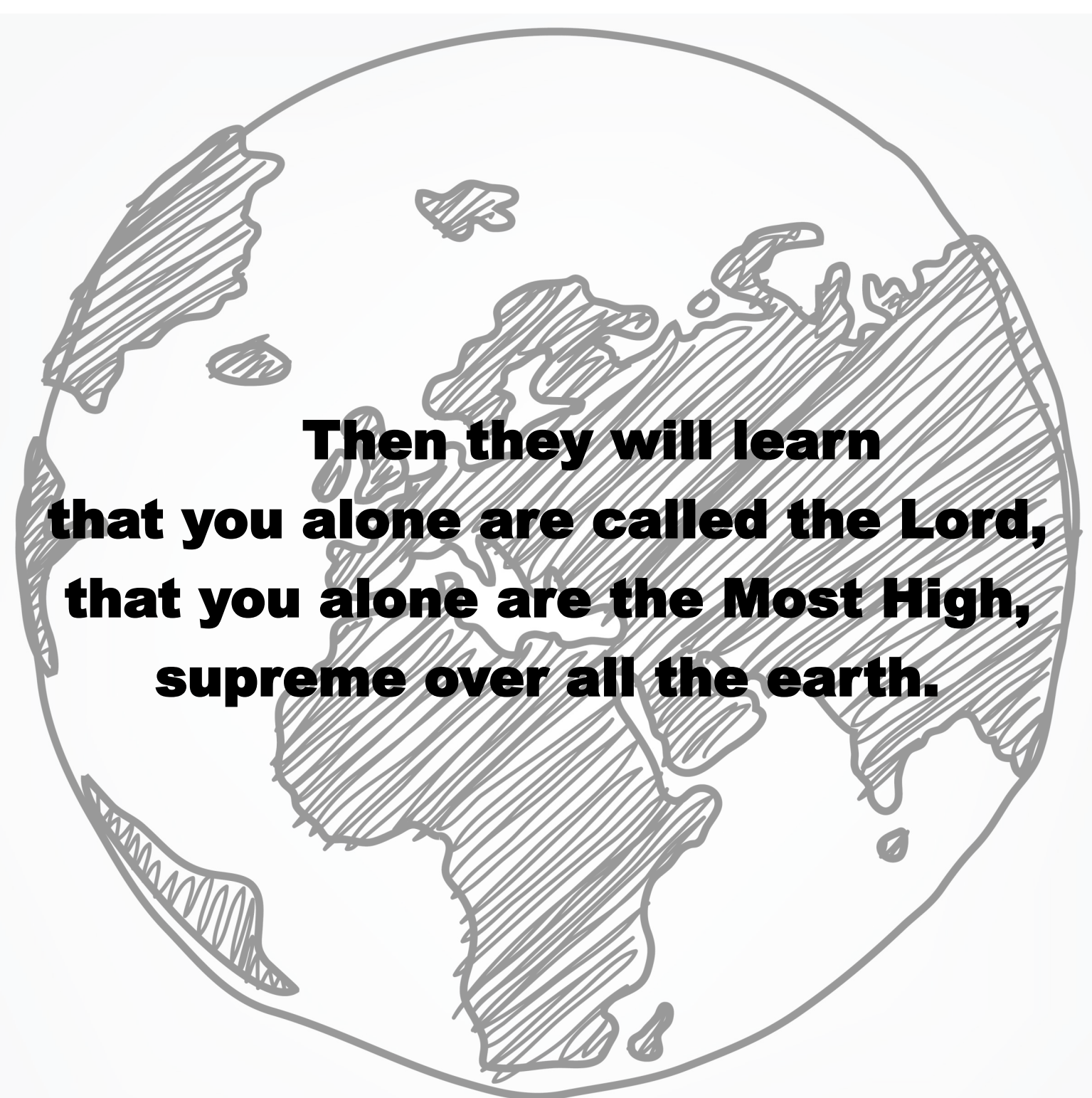
Our memory verse says, “Then they will learn that you alone are called the Lord, that you alone are the Most High, supreme over all the earth.” (Psalm 83:18) What does it take for you to learn things, spiritual things, about God and His greatness? When you hear God’s Word, do you believe it and obey? Maybe you are like King Nebuchadnezzar. Does it take you trying things your own way in pride and having them fail before you will trust God? Don’t wait until God has to send difficulties! Trust and obey. Praise God and honor His name before the difficulties! Adore Him; Lift up the name of the Most High God.

ACTIVITIES

- Memory verse activity: Make an Growing Tree. Use a brown construction paper rectangle for the trunk. Make the top of the tree from green construction paper. Affix the trunk to the leaves. Print the verse on the tree from the bottom up and print the reference on the leaves. Fold the trunk and then fold it back on itself. As you share the memory verse, lift the leaves to show the tree growing.
- While telling the story, cut out a tall paper tree. When Nebuchadnezzar dreams of the tree being cut down, do the same by cutting your tree near the bottom of the trunk, leaving only a stump.
- Provide coloring pages of the story.
- Provide a picture of a man sleeping and dreaming, but with a blank “dream cloud”. Encourage your students to illustrate the dream.
- Play animal games, like Animal Charades, to remind students of King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream. (If you choose to play Animal Charades, make it fun by choosing which animal you will act out from a bag or box of animal crackers.)
- For Further Study: Read Daniel 4:9-12, 22 and Daniel 2:31-33, 36-38. King Nebuchadnezzar may have been the greatest of kings, but that authority came from God, the King of all kings. Nebuchadnezzar had become prideful. Look up the following verses. What do you learn about pride? (Psalm 10:4; Proverbs 16:18, 11:2, 29:23, 13:10)



PSALM 83:18



**Then they will learn
that you alone are called the Lord,
that you alone are the Most High,
supreme over all the earth.**

WORD SEARCH

N	D	N	G	F	O	M	O	D	G	N	N	K	A	Most High God
F	I	E	R	Y	F	U	D	A	N	I	E	L	A	
W	I	L	D	A	N	I	M	A	L	B	B	C	N	Nebuchadnezzar
T	S	U	J	S	I	D	O	G	D	E	U	A	A	Pride
R	E	C	H	E	U	O	S	E	S	C	C	H	Z	
I	E	H	U	D	A	G	I	E	R	H	H	S	R	Daniel
N	E	A	C	G	R	H	Z	A	A	A	A	E	A	Dream
F	B	D	O	D	H	G	I	H	E	S	D	M	S	
I	O	N	L	E	D	I	R	P	Y	N	N	U	S	Enormous Tree
R	S	E	L	K	R	H	E	M	N	E	E	E	T	Wild Animal
E	V	Z	S	H	E	T	R	A	E	H	Z	A	A	
T	L	Z	G	I	A	S	E	Z	V	Z	Z	G	T	Seven Years
N	E	A	U	S	M	O	W	A	E	A	A	E	U	
I	N	E	N	O	R	M	O	H	S	T	R	E	E	God is Just



WORD SEARCH

N	D	N	G	F	O	M	O	D	G	N	N	K	A
F	I	E	R	Y	F	U	D	A	N	I	E	L	A
W	I	L	D	A	N	I	M	A	L	B	B	C	N
T	S	U	J	S	I	D	O	G	D	E	U	A	A
R	E	C	H	E	U	O	S	E	S	C	C	H	Z
I	E	H	U	D	A	G	I	E	R	H	H	S	R
N	E	A	C	G	R	H	Z	A	A	A	A	E	A
F	B	D	O	D	H	G	I	H	E	S	D	M	S
I	O	N	L	E	D	I	R	P	Y	N	N	U	S
R	S	E	L	K	R	H	E	M	N	E	E	E	T
E	V	Z	S	H	E	T	R	A	E	H	Z	A	A
T	L	Z	G	I	A	S	E	Z	V	Z	Z	G	T
N	E	A	U	S	M	O	W	A	E	A	A	E	U
I	N	E	N	O	R	M	O	U	S	T	R	E	E

Most High God

Nebuchadnezzar

Pride

Daniel

Dream

Enormous Tree

Wild Animal

Seven Years

God is Just

