Daniel 4:1-27

Dream #2, “Divine Warning”

**Scripture:** Daniel 4:1-27

**Memory Verse:** *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life*

*in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Romans 6:23

**Lesson Focus:** God warnings and His free grace.

**Activities and Craft:** Coloring Page, Work sheet

Craft for 1st and 2nd Graders: God’s Divine Warning Necklace

**Introduction:** Bring in a dollar bill. Call one child up to the front of the classroom.

 Ask him/her:

1. I have something in my pocket – do you want to see it?
2. What do I have in my hand?
3. Whose dollar bill is this?
4. Would you like to have it?
5. Do you deserve to have it?
6. If I give it to you, what am I doing? (giving you a gift)

Give the child the dollar bill and have them sit down. Tell the class that today we will

 talk about how God gives a warning to the King – but the king will

decide if he wants to listen to God and change his life or not. Because God is holy we have consequences for our sin. But God is also merciful and gives us the free gift of salvation when we believe in Jesus.

**Bible Study:**

 **Daniel 4:1-3; “Proclamation of who God is!”**

 King Nebuchadnezzar’s big proclamation:

 √ What is a proclamation? (An announcement)

 √ What is King Nebuchadnezzar proclaiming? (He’s proclaiming the majesty of

 God.)

 √ Do you think that King Nebuchadnezzar believes in what he is saying about

God? (He probably is sincere – but how he lives his life will tell us the truth of what he believes.)

 King Nebuchadnezzar proclaims:

1. God has worked signs and wonders for him.

(How did God do this? What signs and wonders did Nebuchadnezzar see?)

1. Daniel was able to tell him his dream and the interpretation
2. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were saved in the fiery furnace.
3. God is great
4. God’s kingdom is an everlasting kingdom
5. God has dominion from generation to generation (that means that God is in control.)

Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon speaks truth about who God is.

People can know about God and not know Him personally.

God says; *“Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight, says the Lord.”* Jeremiah 9:23

God actually delights in us knowing Him. He wants us to grow in our knowledge and understanding of who God is. This is one reason why we study the bible; to grow in our knowledge of God.

We do not know if Nebuchadnezzar believed what he said or not – but boys and girls we need to make sure that we don’t just get head knowledge about God. God wants a relationship with us!

 **Daniel 4:4-7; “Another Bad Dream”**

 √ From Daniel 4:4, what was the “state” of Nebuchadnezzar when he had this

 new bad dream?

1. At rest
2. Flourishing (things were going well for him.)

√ How did the dream make him feel? (Afraid and troubled)

√ Who did he call to help him with his bad dream? (all the wise men of Babylon.)

√ Could they tell him what the dream meant? (No, or they did not want to!)

 **Daniel 4:8-18; “Daniel hears the dream.”**

√ How does Nebuchadnezzar address Daniel?

 (Nebuchadnezzar knew that the Spirit of God was in him.)

 (Nebuchadnezzar knew that Daniel would tell him the truth.)

  **The Dream:**

1. Great big tree (strong and tall)
2. A tree with beautiful leaves and fruit
3. A tree that others could find safety and provision
4. A holy being comes from heaven
5. The holy being tells them to cut down the tree
6. They are to only leave the stump and the roots
7. Now the dream changes to describe a man
8. Will grave with the beasts
9. His heart will be changed from a man to a beast
10. 7 years or seasons he will live in this condition
11. This decision is to show that only God rules over the kingdom of man
12. This decision is to show that God puts people into authority

**Daniel 4:19-27: “God gives Daniel the interpretation of the Dream”**

 √ How did Daniel respond when he heard the dream?

 (He did not answer right away and he was troubled because of

 what the dream meant.)

 √ How did Daniel first answer the King? (Oh, if this dream was only for

 your enemies and not about you.)

 The Dream:

 Tree = King Nebuchadnezzar

 Holy one = announcement from God

 Warning:

 You shall become like a beast of the field

 You shall be driven from men

 You will eat grass like the cows and live like an animal

 You be like this for 7 (seasons or years) until you come to know

 that God rules.

 You will be given your kingdom back, when you come to realize

 the truth of God.)

 Daniel’s Advice:

1. Turn from your sin and live right (righteously)
2. Turn form your sin and show mercy to the poor

God is warning Nebuchadnezzar that he needs to change his heart. That he needs to truly know the living God. Nebuchadnezzar is full of pride and his pride keeps him from acknowledging God and knowing God.

Application:

1. We need to “KNOW” God! We don’t just want “head” knowledge – we should want to have a true relationship with God.

√ Do you come to church wanting to “know” God in a deeper way?

√ What do you do during the week to know God better?

1. Warnings:

Do you know that we have a God that is full of mercy.

√ What is “mercy”? (Giving us what we don’t deserve.)

God gives Nebuchadnezzar a warning through his dream to change before he

 is punished. God did not have to do that, but through His grace he gives

Nebuchadnezzar a chance to change.

God does that all of the time throughout the Bible:

1. Hebrews 11:7: *“By faith Noah, being divinely* ***warned*** *of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household…”*

(Noah is an example of someone who responded to God’s warning. He built the ark – even though he had never seen it rain or flood. By faith he believed God’s warning.”

1. Genesis 4:6-7: God comes to Cain and asks him “*Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.”*

(God comes to Cain because He sees that Cain is upset and jealous of his brother Abel. God in His grace gives Cain a warning to stop the sin that is lurking in his heart. The story goes on to tell us that Cain does not listen to God but kills his brother Abel.)

1. John 13:36-38; Peter says that he would follow Jesus anywhere and that he would die for Jesus. Jesus warns Peter – that even before the night is over that he will deny knowing Jesus. (Even though Peter got the warning – he still denied Jesus 3 times.)
2. Genesis 2:15-17: When God created man he put him in the Garden of Eden and told him that he could eat of anything in the garden except for one tree. God gave Adam a warning that if he ate of that tree death would come.

√ Did Adam still eat?

But the story does not end there. God gave Adam the warning and Adam and the rest of the human race have the consequence of that sin, death.

But God’s grace was always moving towards Jesus. He warns us of sin – but provides the way of salvation through Jesus.

*“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, Even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”* Ephesians 2:4-7