

## ***I AM - The Greatest Battle of Your Life***

### **Unit 4: Second Chances**

#### **Lesson 4: Pride Precedes a Fall**

#### **The Cave of Wisdom**

#### **The Cave Opening: The Burning Bush**

Welcome back to the cave of “Pride”, perhaps the darkest of all “weapons” which Satan has to separate you from the dream which God had for you before you were born. This weapon is so powerful that God even states in Proverbs 8:13 “I hate pride and arrogance”. Isn’t pride really just self-confidence? Webster’s Dictionary defines Pride as “Unreasonable and inordinate self-esteem (personified as one of the deadly sins).” Catch that last part: “personified as one of the deadly sins”. Read deadly as separates us from God forever.

No wonder God hates pride. He doesn’t want to lose you forever and He created you with a dream in mind which pride destroys. The dream God has for you can only be achieved through relationship with God and His guidance. Separation from Him blocks our guidance from Him and blinds us to the guideposts He places in our path. While we need some self-esteem, “unreasonable” self-esteem is a false. We become “puffed up” and dependent upon ourselves alone.

**Circle of Fire:** God's Humbling Power. God Hates Pride

*Scripture:* Daniel 4:28-37; Proverbs 8:13 and 16:18.

Key Verse 37: "those who walk in pride he is able to humble

Verse Pr 8:13 I hate pride and arrogance

Verse Pr 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, and  
haughtiness before a fall.

*Biblical Character:* Nebuchadnezzar

King Nebuchadnezzar had conquered the largest kingdom ever to be ruled in the Middle East region. He built a beautiful city at Babylon to be his palace and center of government. Success can lead us to a terrible characteristic which God hates ... pride. When we believe that our efforts alone have accomplished success, we refuse to acknowledge the power of God over us. In effect we set ourselves up as equal to God in our minds.

This was the downfall of the Archangel Lucifer, he believed himself to be equal or better than God. Such behavior resulted in his fall from heaven. Still today, people behave like Nebuchadnezzar and Lucifer by placing themselves on the pedestal of success and pride. With your achievements so far, have you begun to develop pride in your heart? Have you already forgotten that everything good comes from God?

Show the video: King Nebuchadnezzar conquers Jerusalem and kills the leaders.

Act the scene of Daniel 4:28-31. Dress in royal garments with a golden crown. Pretend to be standing on the balcony of your mansion and survey the vast city which you govern. Tell the story of the vision seen earlier in the chapter and Daniel's interpretation. Looking out over the city, claim your greatness and all that you have done. Have an assistant say the voice from heaven words: "You are driven from people and will live like an animal eating grass for seven years, until you acknowledge that God is sovereign over the kingdoms of men." Then "go wild", eat celery, and act like a wild animal. Have narrator tell the passing of seven years. Act out the words in verse 37 and praise God.

**Reality Character(s):** Mother Theresa

Show the video: Tribute to Mother Theresa. Discuss her humble spirit and complete dependence on God.

***The Tribe:*** We are to practice a humble heart, giving God the glory for all things. Remember to give praise to God for your successes. Many athletes set an example of this by thanking God for their success.

**Craft:** “Humbleness Cup”. See Appendix 8 Craft for instructions.

**Recreation Activity:** “Blind Sundae”: This activity is to teach students that they cannot do everything on their own, they need others. When we recognize our dependency instead of our self-sufficiency, we go a long way toward avoiding Pride. Blindfold one member. Have this person make an ice cream Sundae using the other members to yell instructions.