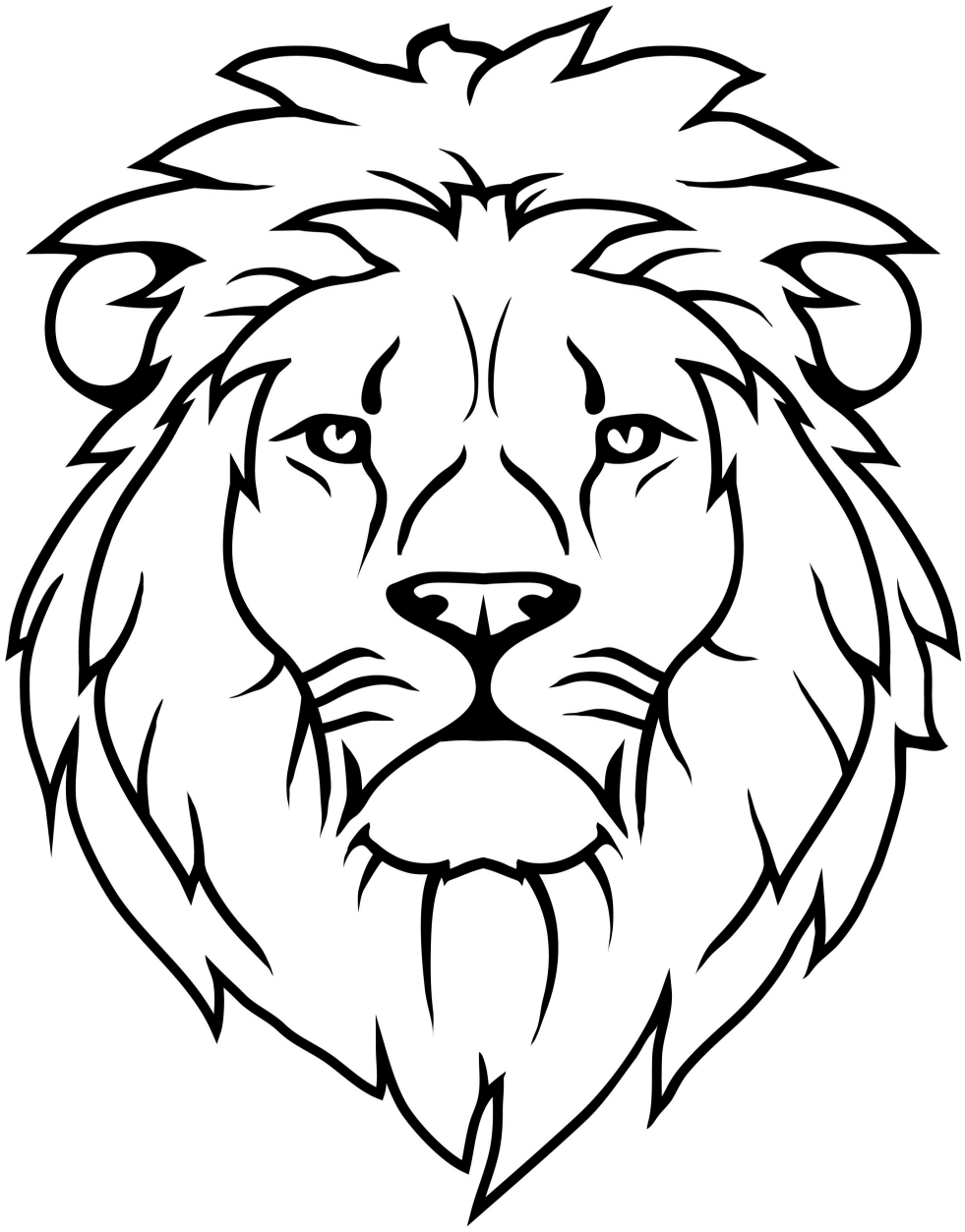


DANIEL

Servant of the Most High God

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum • Summer 2021

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Lesson 5

Scripture: Daniel 5:1-31

Memory Verse: Psalm 91:1

Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

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



Lesson 5: The Most High God Takes Down Kings

Many years after King Nebuchadnezzar had been driven from his palace and then restored to the throne, a ruler named Belshazzar governed Babylon. Like many rulers, He decided to throw a huge party. He invited 1,000 nobles and his own wives and girlfriends. Belshazzar served wine at his party and drank with his guests. After they had been drinking a while, Belshazzar had an idea. He remembered all the gold Babylon had captured from the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem 60 years before and he called for the gold cups that had been used in the worship of the one, true God. "While they drank from them they praised their idols made of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone." (5:4) Belshazzar and his guests were doing something very evil. Those gold cups that had been used in the Jewish Temple had been consecrated to God; that means "set apart for the worship of God" not to be used in common, everyday ways.

Belshazzar thought he could get away with doing whatever he wanted, when suddenly he saw a hand, no arm, no body, just a hand writing on the wall of the palace! The king was terrified; "his face turned pale...his knees knocked together...and his legs gave way beneath him." (5:6) He immediately called for the wise men of Babylon because he couldn't understand the message that had been written. He offered a royal robe and a gold chain for the one who "could read the writing or tell him what it meant." (5:8b) No one could. Luckily "the queen mother heard what was happening [and] she hurried to the banquet hall. She said to Belshazzar, 'Long live the king! Don't be so pale and frightened.'" (5:10) Then the queen mother explained to Belshazzar that since the time of King Nebuchadnezzar there had been a man in the kingdom with understanding and wisdom like that of the gods. (5:11) She continued to tell Belshazzar that the man's name was Daniel and that he could "interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve difficult problems." (5:12b) Then she encouraged him to call Daniel, who could interpret the writing on the wall.

"So Daniel was brought in before the king." (5:13) It is so easy to think of Daniel as that teenage boy brought from Jerusalem 66 years before, but Daniel is about 80 years old now and when Belshazzar offered the robe and chain for his interpretation, Daniel refused. He didn't need those things, but he would interpret the writing. Before he did, though, Daniel reminded Belshazzar of what he already knew. The Most High God had given "sovereignty, majesty, glory, and honor" to King Nebuchadnezzar. (5:18) He had been

great, but he became full of pride. When he did, God removed him from the throne for a while to live in the wild like an animal. This lasted "until he learned that the Most High God rules over the kingdoms of the world and appoints anyone He desires to rule over them." (5:21b) Daniel told him, "Even knowing all of this, you have been proud, too. You have used sacred cups from the temple of the Most High God to drink and praise your own 'gods of silver, gold, bronze, iron, wood, and stone—gods that neither see nor hear nor know anything at all.' (5:23)" What Belshazzar should have been doing was to praise the Most High God who created heaven and earth because God's eternal power and divine nature have been obvious since He first created the world. (Romans 1:19-20) Because Belshazzar did not acknowledge this, God sent the hand with a message for him. Daniel read the massage to Belshazzar: "Mene, Mene, Tekel, Parsin (Upharsin)." (5:25) Then Daniel told the king what the message meant. God was bringing Belshazzar's time in power to an end because he had been weighed on the scales and hadn't measured up. Babylon would fall and be given to the Medes and Persians.

Even with such bad news, the king was true to his word. Daniel was given the royal robe and gold chain. He was also promoted. God was also true to His word; "That very night Belshazzar...was killed. (5:30) The Medes and Persians had diverted the flow of the Euphrates River that ran right through the middle of Babylon and they walked right in! Once Babylon was taken, Darius the Mede was chosen to reign over the land.

Isn't this just the most bizarre story? How could a ruler, or anyone, come to his end so quickly? You see, God's word says, "be sure that your sin will be discovered. It will be brought out into the open." (Numbers 32:23 NIrV) Belshazzar wasn't clueless about the effects of pride and not honoring God. He knew what had happened to King Nebuchadnezzar and he chose to follow down the same prideful path.

L I V E I T O U T

Thank God he assures us of something if we submit to Him instead of depending on ourselves. Our memory verse says, "Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty." (Psalm 91:1) Who is this Most High God? He is the only true God, but even if their were other gods, He is the Most High. He is exalted above ALL other things!

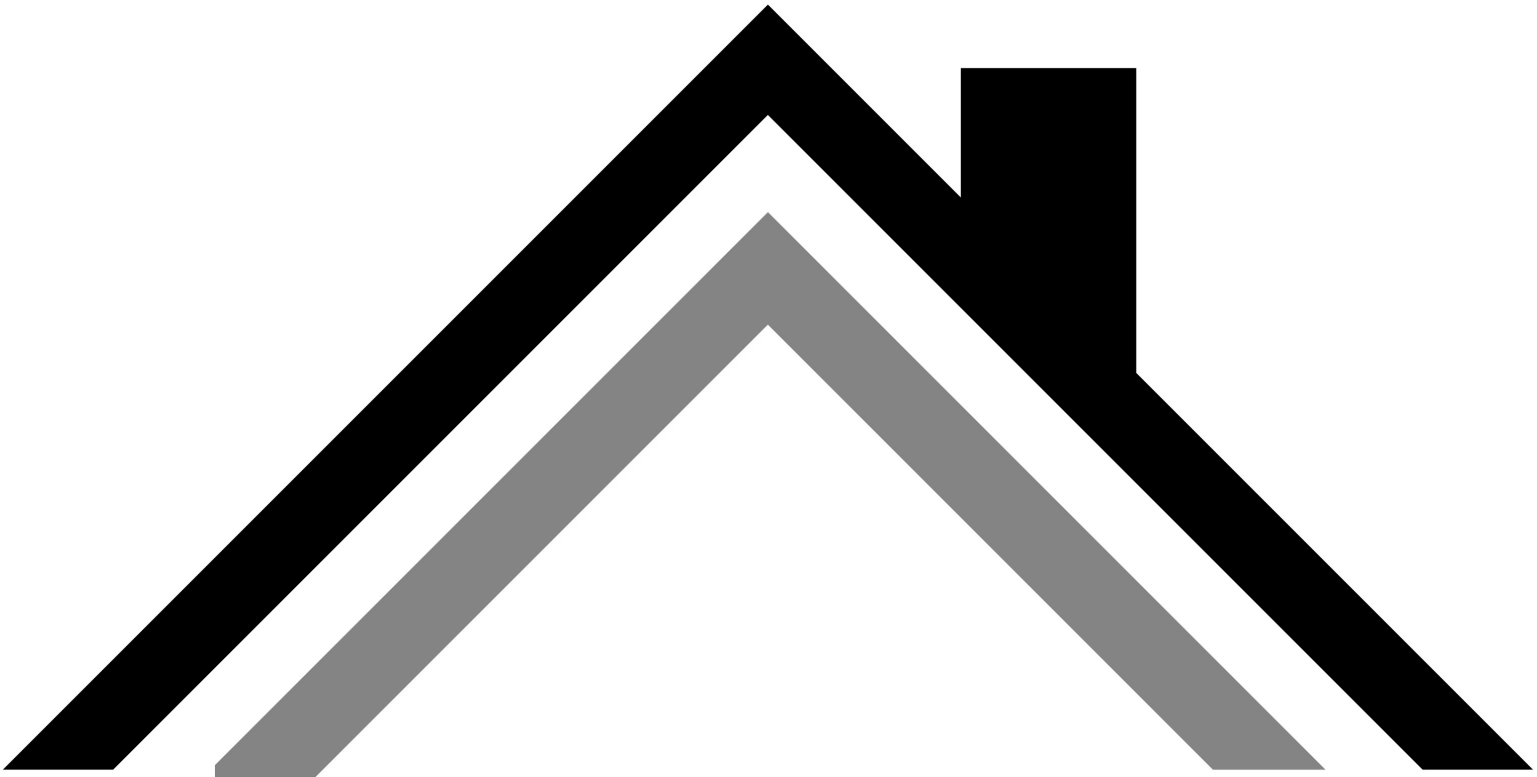
Is that you? Do you live in the shelter of the Most High? If so, be an example to those around you and share what you know about God. If not, let's talk.

Activities

- Memory verse activity: On construction paper, use craft sticks to make a shelter (house). Print the memory verse on the paper as well. As you are working on the craft, be sure to repeat the memory verse many times.
- Provide coloring pages of the story.
- With a shallow tub or tray of sand, encourage each student to write with their finger in the sand. Discuss what God wrote on the wall of Belshazzar's palace.
- Bring examples of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone. Present the object to your students and ask what each is. Then discuss all the types of idols Belshazzar and his guests were drinking to. Can something of wood, gold, etc. hear us or help us when we pray? No! But the Most High God can!
- Provide cards that have the words MENE, MENE, TEKEL, AND PARSIN as well as their meanings NUMBERED, NUMBERED, WEIGHED, AND DIVIDED written on them. Run relays to match the words with their meaning.
- For Further Study: Read Daniel 5:1-4. Why was it wrong that Belshazzar used the golden Temple cups? He had captured them. That made them his to use as he wanted, right? Well, those cups had been consecrated to God. They were to be used in worship only to Him. The Bible tells us that something else should be consecrated, or made holy. Read Leviticus 11:44 and 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. You should be made holy to God, consecrated for His use, not to follow and do all the common things the world tells you are okay.



Psalm 91:1



Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

Word Search

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

Belshazzar

Most High God

Party

Gold Temple Cups

Consecrated

Handwriting

Palace Wall

Daniel

MedoPersian



Word Search

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

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