

Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2010

Through the Old Testament in Two Years

Part Two



Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

Old Testament

The Writing on the Wall

Daniel 5

Memory Verse

If we live, we live to honor the Lord. If we die, we die to honor the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.
(Romans 14:8 NIV)

Goals

1. Understand that Belshazzar was the son of Nebuchadnezzar.
2. Recognize that Belshazzar worshipped idols.
3. Learn that Belshazzar was proud.
4. Understand that God judged Belshazzar.

Last week we learned that Daniel's friends risked their lives. They chose not to worship idols. They told the king that God could save them, but even if He did not, they would not worship the king's idol. The king was very angry. Daniel's friends were thrown into a fiery furnace. They trusted God and God helped them.

Read the Bible

READ: Daniel 5:1-12, 17-28 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Begin With Prayer

We have learned about a king named Nebuchadnezzar. When he died, his son, Belshazzar, became king. He did not worship God. He worshipped false statues that were not God at all. One day, the king had a big banquet. He invited many important people. There was lots of delicious food and things to drink. (Daniel 5:1)

Suddenly the king had an idea. He remembered that his father took some gold cups (goblets) from God's temple. He thought it would be wonderful for all his guests to drink from these expensive cups. He did not think about the fact that these were special cups from God's church temple. As the guests were drinking from the gold cups, they worshipped false gods that were not real. (Daniel 5:2-4)

Suddenly, something scary happened. Fingers of a human hand started writing on the wall in the banquet room. (Daniel 5:5)

When the king saw what was happening, he became very white and pale. His knees knocked together and he dropped to the floor. (Daniel 5:6)

The king called special people to come and translate what the handwriting meant. They could not figure out what the message said. This made the king very scared and terrified. (Daniel 5:7-9)

Just then, the queen came into the banquet hall. She remembered that there was a special man who could interpret things like this. His name was Daniel. Daniel had served the king's father. (Daniel 5:10-12)

The Writing on the Wall — Bible Facts

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| 1. The king served wine in the temple cups. | 2. A hand appeared and wrote on the wall. |
| 3. The king called for his magicians to interpret the writing. | 4. Daniel interpreted the writing on the wall. |

They called Daniel to come. The king said, I have heard that the spirit of the gods is in you. I've also heard that you have understanding and good sense and special wisdom." The king promised him lots of expensive things if he could interpret the words. (Daniel 5:13-16 NIV)

Daniel told the king that he did not want the things. He explained that the only true God gave his father Nebuchadnezzar the kingdom. Over time, his heart did not care about God. He loved the power of being the king. When Belshazzar became king, he was proud, too. Instead of worshipping God, he worshipped false statues. Daniel shared that even at the banquet, he did not honor God. (Daniel 5:17-23)

He looked at the words. They said "Mene, Mene Tekel, Parsin." Daniel told the king what each word meant. "Mene" meant that his days were numbered. That meant that he would die soon. "Tekel" meant that God had judged him and he had done wrong. "Parsin" meant that other people would come and rule the country. (Daniel 5:24-28 NIV)

Just as God said, that very night the king died and another person, Darius, became king. Daniel followed God and worshipped Him only. He was a messenger for God to help the people know about Him. (Daniel 5:29-30) God wants us to live for Him and to honor Him. (Romans 14:8)

Review

1. **What did King Belshazzar do?** (The king served wine in the temple cups.)
2. **What happened?** (A hand appeared and wrote on the wall.)
3. **What did the king do?** (The king called for his magicians to interpret the writing.)
4. **What happened next?** (Daniel interpreted the writing on the wall.)

Do You Know Jesus?

Do you know what Jesus did for us? Jesus wants us to go to Heaven, but there our sin has separated us from God. God loves us and decided to make a way to get rid of our sin so that we can be in Heaven one day. Jesus paid the price for all our wrongs. Jesus died on the cross for all our sins. Then, three days later, Jesus came back to life. If we ask Him to forgive our wrongs and trust Him with our heart, Jesus will come into our hearts and stay with us forever. If you want to know how to trust Jesus, talk to your teacher.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so we can go to heaven.
3. Ask God to help you honor Him.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to honor God.

Application

Belshazzar was the son of Nebuchadnezzar. He worshipped idols and was proud. He took the special worship cups from the temple to serve wine at his party. Belshazzar did not honor God. This made God angry. God judged Belshazzar. God wants us to honor Him. (Romans 14:8)

Planning for Next Week

Daniel in the Lion's Den — Daniel 6

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: Daniel 5:18-28 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Teachers: Use white paper and use crayons color rainbow lines or columns. Next use black to color over the rainbow colors. Then use a pencil or pen to write the Bible verse. Make some for the children who were absent.

We have been talking about a man who loved God very much. His name was Daniel. Daniel lived in a country where the king and the people did not worship God. Daniel worshipped God and prayed to God every day.

One day, the king had a big party. He invited many people to come. They ate lots of delicious food. As they were drinking, the king remembered some beautiful golden cups that had been in God's temple. He asked his servants to get the cups and serve the drink to the people in them.

The king did not realize that he was not honoring God by doing this. In fact, God was not happy that the king used the special cups from the temple.

Suddenly, a hand appeared in front of all the people. The hand wrote words on the wall. The king gasped and was terrified of the hand. He asked his leaders to tell him what the words meant. No one could figure out the words.

Then, the queen told the king that Daniel could tell him what the words meant. The king asked Daniel to come.

When Daniel arrived, he saw the words on the wall. He also saw how the king and friends were drinking from God's cups. Daniel told the king what the words meant. He explained that God was upset because the king did not honor God. It was a very sad way to end the fun party.

God loves us. We should honor God by singing songs to Him and telling Him how much we love Him.

Let's sing "O How I Love Jesus."

Memory verse for younger children

If we live, we live to honor the Lord. Romans 14:8

Learning Activities

- **Memory verse activity** — Use white paper and crayons to color rainbow lines or columns. Next, use black to color over the rainbow colors. Then, use a pencil or pen to write the Bible verse in the black crayon revealing the rainbow colors below. Make some for the children who were absent.
- **Test your memory** — Bring letters that have been cut out and spell the message given to Belshazzar. As you tell the story put the letters on a wall or poster to create the words.
- **Taste activity** — Bring alphabet cereal.
- **Think about it** — Belshazzar was judged by God because he dishonored God. Talk about the importance of honoring God.
- **Touch activity** — Allow the children to illustrate the writing on the wall. Allow them to use chalk on construction paper.
- **Run and play** — Bring a bowl of brightly colored gum balls (enough for everyone to have two or three). Have the children divide into two teams. Ask someone to pretend to be Belshazzar and someone to be Daniel. Give the bowl of gum balls to Belshazzar. Have Daniel give Belshazzar God's message to begin a relay race. Each team will run and get one gum ball until everyone one on each team has two (or three).
- **Listen** — As the children take time for silence, remind them that God wants us to honor Him.
- **Sing** — Sing "Here Is My Life," "I am Thine, O Lord," or another song related to the story.
- **Reach out** — During class, pray (by name) for kids who did not come today. Ask the children to go with you to deliver the handout with the Bible verse to those who were absent. Pray with the children who were absent. Encourage them to read the story in the Bible.

Memory Verse

If we live, we live
to honor the Lord.
If we die, we die
to honor the Lord.
So whether we live
or die, we belong
to the Lord.
Romans 14:8

Word Puzzle

Trace the letters.

God

wants

us to

honor

Him

Word Search

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

NEBUCHADNEZZAR

PARTY

WINE

WALL

BELSHAZZAR

CUPS

ANGRY

QUEEN

DANIEL

TEMPLE

WRITING

JUDGED

Word Search



NEBUCHADNEZZAR

PARTY

WINE

WALL

BELSHAZZAR

CUPS

ANGRY

QUEEN

DANIEL

TEMPLE

WRITING

JUDGED

Word Search

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

WALL

WRITING

DANIEL

CUPS

WINE

TEMPLE

Word Search

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

WALL

WRITING

DANIEL

CUPS

WINE

TEMPLE

Anagram

LEVI

NROOH

RDOL

IED

TREEHHW

LNGEOB

MNSAOR

NAIEDL

NGIK

Anagram

LIVE

HONOR

LORD

DIE

WHETHER

BELONG

ROMANS

DANIEL

KING