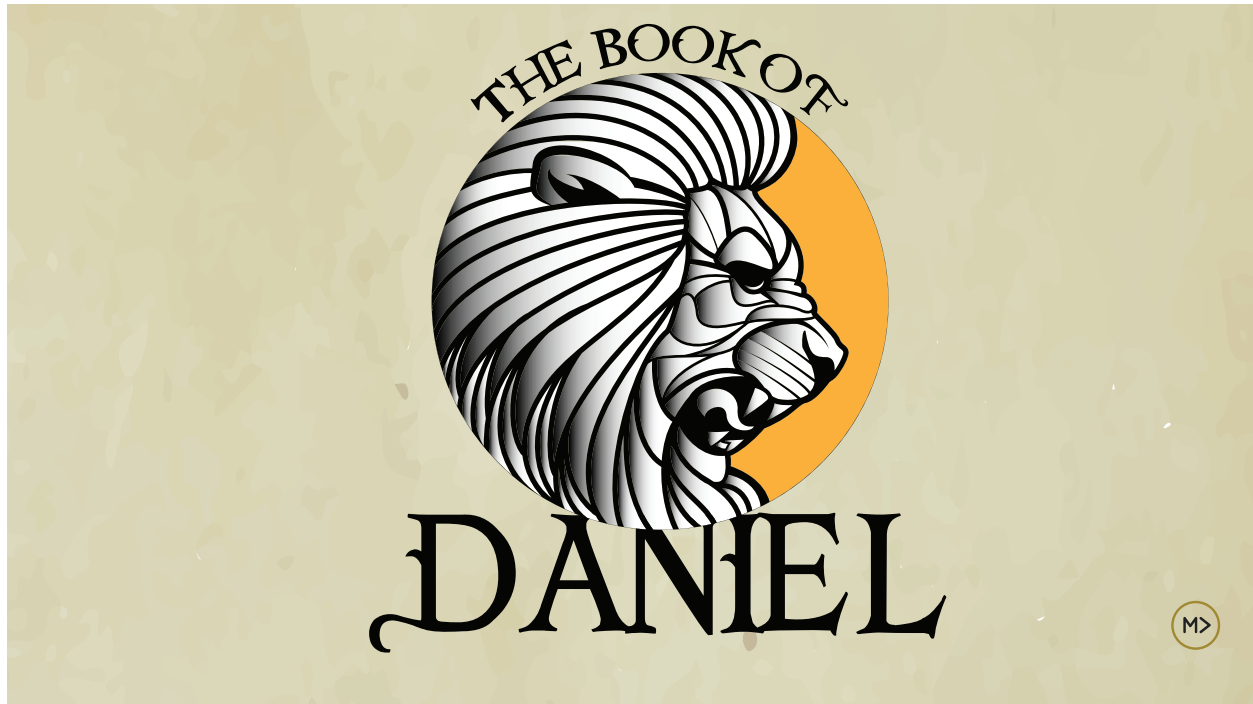


MD KIDS CURRICULUM: DANIEL



Week Five: Writing on the Wall

To the Teachers

The book of Daniel is primarily about how God's people can live in His kingdom in the midst of a culture trying to rule with human kingdoms. Pray that we as a church, our kids included, will learn to love our culture while remaining faithful to our true King.

- **Big Idea:** God will bring an end to every kingdom that is against His own.

As Kids Enter (15 minutes - Classroom)

- **Question:** Do your parents or brother or sister have something at home that is very special to them? How do you think they would react if you misused that thing? Today we'll learn about a king misusing something special to God and His people.
- **Starter:** 'Writing on the Wall'
Ahead of time, dip a cotton swab into lemon juice and write a message on paper. During class, hold the paper up to a lamp or light bulb to reveal the message. If you can't make this ahead of time, talk about the origin of the phrase "The writing is on the wall" and how it comes from today's lesson.

Sing Together (15 minutes)

Group Teaching (30 minutes - Lead Teacher)

- **Story:** from Daniel 5

After King Nebuchadnezzar came another king of Babylon, King Belshazzar. Unfortunately, he was also arrogant and prideful and did not learn from hearing about how Nebuchadnezzar had to be humbled by God.

One day he decided to have a huge party and brought all his royal and rich friends together to feast. Parties are great, but this party got way out of hand. King Belshazzar commanded that they drink their wine out of these special golden cups that were stolen from Israel's temple a long time ago. As they drank, they praised their gods of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone... and they were mocking the true God.

Suddenly, a hand appeared and starting writing something on the wall! Belshazzar was so frightened. He called for all his wise men and magicians to come and said whoever could tell him what the writing on the wall meant would be rewarded greatly and made the third highest ruler of all the kingdom. But none of them could read the writing or tell what it meant.

The queen, Belshazzar's mom, reminded him that Nebuchadnezzar trusted Daniel to interpret dreams for him, so Daniel was called before the king. Daniel said he didn't want any of the reward, but he would still tell him what the writing meant. But before he did, he reminded the king about his father, Nebuchadnezzar. "God gave King Nebuchadnezzar a kingdom and made him great. But when Nebuchadnezzar became prideful and did not acknowledge God as the true King over all things, God had to humble him. He took away his kingdom and made him think and act like a wild animal until Nebuchadnezzar finally knew that the Most High God rules the kingdom of mankind and appoints whoever He wants as king. Now you, King Belshazzar, have forgotten this and have not humbled yourself before God. So God has sent you this message."

The wall said, "Mene, Mene, Tekel, and Parsin", which meant, "Numbered, Numbered, Weighed, and Divided." Daniel said, "You have lifted yourself up against the true God. Now your days as king are numbered. You have been weighed and found unworthy as king, so it will be taken from you and divided among other kingdoms."

Even though Daniel didn't want the reward, Belshazzar knew he was right and made him the third most powerful in the kingdom. That night, Belshazzar was killed and Darius of the Mede nation became King in his place.

[Things to Point Out]

- Ask: Parties are fun! What do you think went wrong with Belshazzar's party though?
 - They disrespected the items from God's temple
 - They worshipped other gods and mocked the true God
- Remember when nobody could interpret King Nebuchadnezzar's dreams in our last stories, except for Daniel? The same thing happens here - nobody can interpret the writing on the wall except Daniel.
 - Ask: What made Daniel different and able to interpret? (*God gave Daniel wisdom because Daniel trusted Him*)
 - Ask: How did Daniel use that gift? (*He shared God's message for people to see God is the One in control*)
- Before Daniel interprets the writing, he reminds Belshazzar about how Nebuchadnezzar had to be humbled
 - If Nebuchadnezzar had humbled himself before God, God wouldn't have needed to take his kingdom away
 - If Belshazzar had learned from Nebuchadnezzar's experience and humbled himself before God, he wouldn't have lost his kingdom and his life!
- Ask: In what ways do we need to humble ourselves before God today?

In Breakout Classes (30 minutes - Classroom)

- **Prayer:**
God, You are the King over all things. Help us to worship You and remember You are the One in control. Thank You for being a good King. Amen.
- **Craft:**
 - 'Scratch N' See' - Have kids use colorful markers to fill an entire page. Then have them color black crayon over it. Finally, have them write, 'God is King' by scratching off the black crayon in shape of the letters.
 - Or use the *coloring page* attached
- **BLESS Activity:**
For kids to do during the week
 - **Listen:** Belshazzar did not listen to God until it was too late. How can your family take time to slow down and listen to what God is saying this week?

