

Daniel 5

Text: Daniel 5

Purpose: Even though King Nebuchadnezzar experienced God, his eventual successor, Belshazzar, refused to honor God. In an act of arrogance, Belshazzar calls for items confiscated from Jerusalem's temple to be used in profane ways in Babylon. A visible hand appears during an idol-focused feast, and writes on a wall. None can interpret but Daniel. And Daniel relays the message, that Belshazzar's ignorance would cost him his kingdom. Babylon fell to the Persians that very night that Daniel interpreted the writing.

Opening Question: What is something you are surprised has lasted (whether in your home, in society, or in the world)? Why, do you think, the thing you've named has endured?

Read and Discuss: Daniel 5

- In this passage, what details seem important? Does anything jump out at you?
 - What is the author communicating to the audience?
 - What does this passage teach us about God?
1. Is Belshazzar acting in ignorance or arrogance? Why do you think so?
 2. How significant is Daniel's faithfulness (over the course of his exile) in Babylon?
 3. What is the significance of the handwritten message (5:24-28) for Belshazzar? For Daniel? For Israel?
 4. How does the message of the handwriting connect to the dream Daniel interpreted for Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 2:31-45?
 5. Do you think the message of God's kingdom (Jesus) is surprising, alarming or confrontational? If so, in what ways?
 6. Describe a time when you shared the message of God's kingdom (Jesus). How was that received? How do you feel about that interaction?
 7. What do you think matters more - faithfulness or boldness? Why do you think that?

Calvary Season of Prayer: Anticipation

It's a new season of prayer - anticipation! Anticipation is an expectation that God will work out his goodness among us. Psalm 34 is an example of anticipation.

- In this season of anticipation, please take a few minutes with your group to pray and ask God to heal and energize our church.
- Take a few minutes together to pray for...
 - Our missionaries, that their work will be fruitful.
 - Our families, that parents' commitment to Jesus will be embraced by children.
 - Our county, that God will strengthen the witness of all Gospel-centered churches.