



SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

Sermon: Daniel 5

Date: May 19, 2024

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the teaching and bible passage this week?
2. What has transpired and changed between Daniel 4 and Daniel 5?
3. How are we introduced to King Belshazzar? What kind of a first impression does this passage give us of him?
4. Compare and contrast King Belshazzar with King Nebuchadnezzar. How are they similar? How are they different?
5. What is the significance of the “lampstand” in verse 5 that illuminates the handwriting? Why do you think Daniel felt it necessary to add this detail as he recounts the story?
6. How does King Belshazzar react to the handwriting on the wall? What does this reveal about his character?
7. Before reading and interpreting the handwriting, Daniel gives King Belshazzar a brief sermon in verses 17-23. What are his main points of emphasis to King Belshazzar?
8. How does he end this monologue before interpreting the dream? Why is it significant that Daniel emphasized that the king’s breath is in God’s *hand* (v. 23)?

9. One of King Belshazzar's failures is that he failed to build on his father's legacy. Instead, he squandered his inheritance. As we think about this, what application is there for ourselves as individuals? As a nation?
10. Explain the handwriting and its interpretation. How did it come true?
11. In chapter 4, Daniel spoke words of mercy to King Nebuchadnezzar as he called him to repentance in 4:27. He speaks no such words of mercy to King Belshazzar. Why? What does this tell us about the patience and forbearance of God toward sin and pride?
12. In Daniel 5, God continues to demonstrate that he is sovereign over nations and kings. Furthermore, King Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 2 is starting to be fulfilled. How does this encourage you as you think about our land and future? How does it give you hope?