



## **LIFE GROUP LESSON**

### **Daniel**

Week of 11/9/14

### **Quick Review:**

What insight, principle or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye opening or troubling?

### **My Story:**

1. Pastor Bob gave some examples of sayings that may be commonly used but wouldn't make sense if you didn't know what it meant, like "don't look a gift horse in the mouth." Have you ever heard someone use a phrase like that and had no idea what they were talking about?

## Digging deeper:

King Nebuchadnezzar invaded Judah and Jerusalem three times. Daniel was taken captive to Babylon the first time that Nebuchadnezzar captured Jerusalem. While there Daniel and his three friends Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego were promoted to high positions in the Babylonian government because of their commitment to God, their character, and their skills. Daniel interpreted two dreams for king Nebuchadnezzar and also had dreams and revelations of his own. Both Nebuchadnezzar's and Daniel's dreams foretold what would happen in the Governments of the world for the next 500 years. The message to Israel was that God had their future well in hand. In the book of Daniel God rescues Daniel and his friends from certain death on three separate occasions. These deliverances were to remind God's people that He was the one who protected and cared for them. Their future was in God's hands. In Daniel chapter five Belshazzar is the king in Babylon. He ruled with his father Nabonidus who had left the running of the kingdom to him.

1. Read Daniel 5:1. The Persians were outside the walls of Babylon when Belshazzar decided to throw a party. Why did he do that? And how is that inappropriate?
2. Read Daniel 5:2-4. Why did the king bring in the vessels from the temple of Jerusalem? How was this an affront to God?
3. According to Daniel 5:8 the wise men could not read the handwriting on the wall. Why do you think they were unable and how does that apply to today?

4. Daniel 5:10 says the queen remembered Daniel and suggested to the king that he call for him to interpret the dream. What significance is there in the fact that Daniel is a Jew from the very nation whose God Belshazzar was mocking?
5. Daniel preaches to Belshazzar before he interprets the dream. According to Daniel 5:17-24, what is the message of his sermon?
6. The handwriting on the wall was Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin. According to Daniel 5:26-28, what does that mean? What does it mean for nations today?
7. How was this word fulfilled according to Daniel 5:30-31?

## **Taking It Home**

Belshazzar had the opportunity to learn from the past. He was aware of what had happened to Nebuchadnezzar and how God had humbled him, leading to his repentance. Despite this knowledge, Belshazzar refused to repent and humble himself. God will use the past to give us opportunities to learn from it in order to change our future. Can you see a pattern of the past repeating itself in your life? If so, ask God to reveal to you what he wants you to learn from it. We want to learn lessons from the past so that, unlike Belshazzar, we can humble ourselves and live a life like Daniel was able to live, who walked in obedience regardless of the persecution it might bring.





