


# BOOK of DANIEL



## Courage in Culture

### THE THEME

Courage in Culture

### MEMORY VERSE

“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”

- James 4:10, NIV

### CHALLENGE VERSE

“Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you.”

- 1 Samuel 12:24, ESV

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## OCTOBER 29 - LIFE APPLICATION

“Know God is in control.”

## Note to Parents

From October through December, we will be studying the **Book of Daniel** and how we can have **“Courage in Culture.”**

The life application this week is **“Know God is in Control.”** Before talking with your kids, read **Daniel 5**. In this chapter of Daniel there is a new king, the son of Nebuchadnezzar. His father learned the power of the One True God, but Belshazzar has not! (If you have an **Action Bible**, read the story on **pages 503-505** with your kids and refer to your Bible for discussion as needed.)

### DISCUSS:

1. **What did Belshazzar, who was son of King Nebuchadnezzar and the new king, do with thousands of his people?** (***Daniel 5:1-2.** They partied and drank wine from the silver and gold vessels that had been taken from the Hebrew temple in Jerusalem. Also, they praised gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone- not the One True God.*)
2. Then, something strange happened. **What was it?** (***Daniel 5:4-6.** The fingers of a man’s hand appeared and started writing on the wall.*) **How did Belshazzar react?** (*He was alarmed, his knees knocked together and his legs collapsed.*)
3. The king wanted to know what this writing meant. Like his father had done, he called together the enchanters, astrologers and wise men. **What did he offer for anyone who could interpret the handwriting on the wall?** (*That they would be clothed with purple, have a chain of gold around their neck, and would be the third ruler in the kingdom.*) **Were they able to interpret the handwriting?** (No.)
4. **Who was finally called to provide an explanation to the king?** (*The queen mother told Belshazzar not to be alarmed - she knew of someone. Together, read her description of Daniel in **Daniel 5:11-12.***) **How did Daniel answer the king when he offered to clothe him in riches and give him authority?** (***Daniel 5:17-21.** He told Belshazzar he could keep all of these things. Then, he told him how God had blessed his father Nebuchadnezzar and then took everything away from him because he was prideful and would not recognize God as the Most High God who rules over all things and will do as He wants. Only when Nebuchadnezzar repented and knew that the God of*

*Daniel was the Most High God was he restored to power and blessed again by God, even more than before.)*

5. **How did Daniel interpret the handwriting?** (Daniel said in **verses 26-28**: “This is the interpretation of the matter: **mene**, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end; **tekem**, you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting; **peres**, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”)
6. Even though Daniel had words of condemnation for Belshazzar, he still gave Daniel all that he had promised. **Do you think that Belshazzar took what Daniel said seriously? What would have happened if he had repented as his father had done?** (Discuss. God would probably have blessed him as he did Nebuchadnezzar. Our God is a God of grace!) That very night, Belshazzar was killed and Darius became king!

Go to the **Family Challenge** to discuss what this means for us.

## FAMILY CHALLENGE

1. **Does God want us to be proud or to be humble? What is the difference?** (Taking all of the credit for what we have done and giving glory to ourselves, or giving credit to God for all He has done and giving glory to Him.)
2. **How does God want us to live our lives in a way that honors Him?** Read **Samuel 12:24**. “Only fear the Lord and serve him **faithfully** with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you.”
3. In the sermon, we learned these things:
  - God rules over all the nations.
  - He will bring justice one day through Jesus to all nations.
  - Are your sins forgiven to meet Jesus when he returns?

Nebuchadnezzar had to learn the hard way that there is one God and that he has control over all things. God blessed him when he repented and changed. Belshazzar did not learn this lesson, sadly for him. God will bless those who know who He is and follow Him, but He will not bless those who are proud and deny Him. Which do you choose?

4. **Have your kids learned the memory verse for this month?** If so, challenge them to memorize the challenge verse! Offer a prize for anyone who can

recite both verses by the end of the week!

*“Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you.” (1 Samuel 12:24, ESV)*

## PRAYER

*God, we know You are the One True God over heaven and earth, and You have control over all things. Help us to be humble and serve You well with our lives. Thank You for sending Jesus to die for our sins. We love You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

