

God Rules: Be Strong, Daniel

Lesson Four: God Confronts the Sin of King Belshazzar

Daniel Chapter 5 Character Overview

In lesson four, the text covers Daniel chapter 5. Daniel is still exiled in a foreign land, now under King Nebuchadnezzar's grandson, Belshazzar. *(historical records indicate that Nitocris, Nebuchadnezzar's daughter, is Belshazzar's mother. The word "father" in the text is translated, "ancestor.")*

"It was a strange time to have a party." (text, pg. 41) How true it was, because enemy armies surrounded Babylon. But King Belshazzar was so proud of himself and sure that nothing could be more powerful than he. Instead of preparing to defend his people, he arrogantly threw a drinking party with great boasting. He went as far as calling for the cups that had been taken from the temple in Jerusalem to be brought into the party. These cups had been dedicated to the worship of the one true God. However, Belshazzar drank from them to arrogantly worship the false gods, intentionally dishonoring the LORD.

The Bible was written for our instruction. This includes examples of lives that we can imitate that honor God, and examples of lives (that we can take as a warning) of those who do not honor God and experience sad consequences.

Belshazzar's attitudes of pride and arrogance **led him to believe lies** about his ability to keep control and power over everything. He knew about the one true God through the life of his grandfather and the consequences he faced by not honoring God. However, Belshazzar chose not to pay attention to what was true.

The character conflict in this story is pride vs. humility. A very strong element in our world for many people groups is described as an honor/shame culture. Everything is seen through the eyes of honor or shame. Honor is often confused with pride and arrogance where self is put on the throne of a person's life instead of the LORD who is worthy of our worship. God's plan to bring us back to Him (redemption) is that Jesus took our shame on the cross (Heb. 12:2). He intends to bring those who place their trust in Him into a place of honor in His forever family. (John 1:12-13)

The LORD is the God of justice and we must honor Him!

Remember this: Our attitudes and actions bring consequences: God punishes disobedience and He rewards obedience. When we have a prideful attitude, we really lose in the end. When we honor God, we can become overcomers just like Daniel.

Christlike character in this lesson: Showing Christlike "**humility**" means "I honor God when I draw attention to Him instead of to myself. I conquer pride through humility."*

*Character Solutions: Christlikeness Bible Guide, pg. 10.

Activity Idea for Pre-club

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Game Show: Name That Verse

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

Make boxes to hold each letter on a poster board or white board. As clubbers answer simple review questions from the past 3 lessons allow them to choose two letters by category, vowels or consonants. As the boxes fill in, some clubbers will know the verse. Ask them not to reveal the verse, allowing other clubbers to have turns filling in the correct letters. The winning shout for all is "Ephesians 6:10!" If time allows, a second verse can be tackled.

Tie-in to the lesson: In today's lesson, God confronts the king by giving him a hidden message on the wall that only Daniel can interpret, giving honor to the one true God.



Rhyming Review
for God Rules: Be Strong
Daniel

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1. At King Belshazzar's party, they were having quite a time. He thought his walls were so high, no one could climb up them or break them down.
2. Soon the king's face would be very blue because he pridefully would not believe what was true.
3. The king wanted to honor himself instead of God which resulted in bringing shame to his own name.
4. As a man of wisdom, understanding, knowledge, able to solve problems, Daniel was known. All his God-honoring life, this was shown.
5. To solve the mystery of the writing on the wall, the man of God, Daniel, they would call.
6. To know in your heart that God is just, is a must!