

Home Group Leader's Notes: Week of February 4

Daniel 5 of Inverted series

NOTES TO LEADERS: *There are two predominant themes in this chapter. Throughout Daniel, the focus is on the sovereignty of God and His plans to bring about His kingdom. This chapter is a contrast in two kings, one who repented and one who did not. There is also the example of how Daniel honored God by speaking the truth in humility.*

STUDY THE WORD

NOTES TO LEADERS: *Much of the "Study" portion of this week is about seeing the big picture. A king decides that glory belongs to him instead of God. This was also the lesson in the previous chapter. However, this king does not repent and faces the wrath of God.*

Read "Daniel" five. Which statements point to the sovereignty of God?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *Here are some examples:*

- *Most High God gave your father . . . (18)*
- *Because of the high position he gave him (19)*
- *the Most High God is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and sets over them anyone he wishes (21)*

Which features of Nebuchadnezzar in vs. 18-20 are God-given and owned?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *The following are qualities and features that actually belong to God:*

- *Sovereignty and greatness and glory and splendor.*
- *High position*
- *Feared*
- *Controls life and death*
- *glory*

What was the great sin of Nebuchadnezzar? How did he respond to God?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *Pride, attempting to rob God of glory that is due to Him. He responded, after time, with humility and repentance.*

List Daniel's (God's) statements of rebuke to Belshazzar. What was his great sin?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *Here are some examples of Daniel's rebuke for his pride and refusal to humble himself in repentance:*

- *"the Most High God (YHWH) gave your father . . . Because of the high position he (God, YHWH gave him . . ." = like your father, what you have was given to you by God. (17)*
- *"But you his son . . ." = in contrast to your father, you have not repented*
- *"You praised the gods of silver and gold . . ." = instead of giving glory to God. (23)*
- *"But you did not honor the God who holds in his hand your life . . ." = you failed to honor the God to whom these goblets belong.*

What evidences Daniel's humility? How did he honor God?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *Daniel refused gifts, he trusted God with courage to tell the king the truth, he was respectful but honest, he did not glorify himself for the ability to interpret the handwriting on the wall.*

DISCUSS TOGETHER

Respond to this: "To not tell someone they are a sinner is to not alert them that their house is on fire."

NOTES TO LEADERS: *This is a statement that can have multiple implications. It does not address 'How?' we tell someone but it does imply that they need someone to alert them. Hopefully it will start a good conversation about our involvement in the lives of people who do not yet know Jesus.*

How should we respond when we see people deserving of judgment? When should we speak the truth about sin? What does wisdom and humility look like in this?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *These questions are valuable as we are praying for and being an influence for Jesus with the people in our worlds. Colossians 4:5-6 speaks to this issue: "Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person."*

Daniel did more than just interpret the words on the wall (vs. 18-28). What is our part and what is God's part of helping people to see their need for repentance? (Note also the queen's words, "Don't be alarmed!")

NOTES TO LEADERS: *While we know that it is the Holy Spirit who convicts people, there are many other parts commanded of Jesus' followers (loving one another, sharing the good news, etc.)*

May our Father give you wisdom as you lead,
Steve