**D GROUP LESSON: Week 5**

**Title:** *God’s Graffiti: When the Writing’s on the Wall*
**Text:** Daniel 5

**Main Idea:**

**God sees our pride and sin, and though His judgment is real, He offers grace to those who humble themselves and turn to Him.**

**HOOK (Engage Emotionally & Personally)**

**Goal:** Spark curiosity and make it relatable.

**Ask:**

1. **What’s a moment in your life where you saw the consequences coming before they hit—but still went forward anyway?**
*(It can be serious or light—e.g., eating too much, ignoring a red flag, etc.)*
2. **What do people today do when they feel anxiety or fear about the future? How do they “party” to numb or distract themselves like Belshazzar?**

**Leader Tip:** You can show a funny meme or image of someone "about to have a bad day" (just like in the sermon intro), then transition with:
*“Today we’re going to talk about a moment like that from Daniel 5—when the writing was literally on the wall.”*

**LOOK (Engage the Text – Observation & Interpretation)**

**Read Daniel 5:1–31 aloud (consider splitting it among readers).**

Break it down into 3 sections:

**1. Belshazzar’s Pride (vv. 1–4)**

**Ask:**

* What stands out to you about the kind of party Belshazzar throws?
* Why do you think he used the sacred temple vessels from Jerusalem?
* What does this tell us about his attitude toward God?

**Insight:** The use of holy items was an intentional mockery of God. It was pride + blasphemy = a recipe for judgment.

**2. God’s Message (vv. 5–17)**

**Ask:**

* How did Belshazzar react when the hand appeared?
* Why couldn’t his wise men interpret the writing?
* What does Daniel’s response (v. 17) show us about his character?

**Insight:** Daniel wasn't impressed by power or reward. His loyalty was to God, not to any human ruler.

**3. The Interpretation & Judgment (vv. 18–31)**

**Ask:**

* According to verses 22–23, why was Belshazzar judged so harshly?
* What does *“you knew all this”* in verse 22 imply?
* How is Belshazzar’s response different from Nebuchadnezzar’s in chapter 4?

**Insight:** Knowing the truth and ignoring it is more dangerous than not knowing at all. Belshazzar knew better and still chose rebellion.

**TOOK (Apply Personally – Response & Action)**

**Ask:**

1. Where do you see pride or rebellion in your own life that mirrors Belshazzar’s?
2. Have you ever felt “the writing on the wall” in your life—God warning you to change course?
3. How can we develop a heart like Daniel’s in a culture like Babylon?
4. What would repentance look like for you this week?

**Optional Prayer Prompt:**

*“God, show me what You see in my heart. Reveal any pride, hidden sin, or rebellion that I’ve been ignoring. Thank You that because of Jesus, I don’t have to face judgment. Help me respond with humility, repentance, and faith.”*

**🪧 CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK:**

**Spend time each day praying Psalm 139:23–24**
*“Search me, God, and know my heart… See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”*

Write down anything God reveals to you—and share with a trusted friend or mentor.

**Study Resources**

* **Daniel 5 | Videos | YouVersion / Spoken Gospel** — Short video with devotional reflection on Daniel 5, framing gospel connections <https://video-cdn.youversionapi.com/41516/en/high.webm>
* **Daniel 5: The Fall of Babylon and the Sovereignty of God** — overview article/video from VideoBible [Daniel 5: The Fall of Babylon and the Sovereignty of God - Video Bible](https://www.videobible.com/sermon-preaching/daniel-5?utm_source)
* *The Handwriting on the Wall — Daniel 5* (Josh Banks Ministry Blog) — accessible and practical exposition of the text [Josh Banks Blog](https://blog.joshbanks.org/2021/06/28/the-handwriting-on-the-wall-daniel-5/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
* *Lesson Five — Daniel 5: The Handwriting on the Wall* (Stonebriar Women) — study guide format with discussion helps [Stonebriar Women](https://stonebriarwomen.org/bible-studies/daniel/lesson-five-daniel-5-the-handwriting-on-the-wall/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
* *The Handwriting on the Wall (Daniel 5:1‑9)* — shorter exposition of the opening narrative and its implications [Ambassadors for Christ](https://godsambassadors.com/2017/04/23/the-handwriting-on-the-wall-daniel-51-9/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)