**Life Group Study Guide: Loved what you heard on Sunday? Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you unpack what you heard on Sunday, while diving deeper into God's word.**

***CONNECT:***

* *What is your go to distraction? How do you like to unwind?*

***DIG DEEPER: Daniel 5:1-31***

* Read the passage. Summarize what you read. What truths about God do you find in this passage?
* After a 43 year reign Nebuchadnezzar dies and in Daniel 5 we are introduced to a new king of Babylon. Read the following passages to learn about the turnover in the royal court leading up to chapter 5.
  + 2 Kings 25:27-30 (Nebuchadnezzar’s son). After two years he was assassinated and replaced by his brother in law.
  + The brother in law Nergalsharezer is mentioned in Jeremiah 39:3. Ruled for four years and then passed away
  + His son, Laborosoarchod, only a child and of diminished mental capacity, ruled for only nine months when he was beaten to death by a gang of conspirators.
  + The conspirators appointed Nabonidus, one of their gang, to be king. He ruled until Cyrus the Persian conquered Babylon.
  + Belshazzar is the son of Nabonidus serving as viceroy of the kingdom while his father fled to a distant land.
* Through the years of turmoil and turnover Daniel remained faithful. What is the meaning of the three words written on the wall (use a study bible to find the translation.) How do these words take the measure of Belshazzar? What do these words say about Daniel?
* Belshazzar drinks from the temple cups as if to say he has a grasp on God. The cup turns out to hold God’s wrath and leads to his demise. As the story of the bible progresses we learn of the one who willingly drinks in the wrath of God for our salvation. Read Luke 22:39-44. Contrast these two stories and their outcomes.

***DISCUSS:***

* Do you sometimes act to impress others, rather than live in reverence to God? How does Belshazzar’s story give you pause?
* In what ways has God called you to places of leadership? How can you be more like Daniel and less like Belshazzar?

* How is your heart tempted to hardness and hubris? How will you resist this temptation?
* What is one intentional step that you will commit to take as a result of what you have learned from this study?

180 Day Guided Tour of the Bible

**Reading Plan for Week of October 8th**

Day 6: Genesis 8: The Rainbow

Day 7: Genesis 15: The Plan

Day 8: Genesis 19: A Catastrophe Sent from God

Day 9: Genesis 22: Final Exam

Day 10: Genesis 27: Jacob Gets the Blessing

THE WRITINGS ON THE WALL

Daniel 5:1-31

Wave Church SD | Oct. 8, 2017

***Daniel 5:1-4 (ESV)*** *King Belshazzar made a great feast for a thousand of his lords and drank wine in front of the thousand. 2Belshazzar, when he tasted the wine, commanded that the vessels of gold and of silver that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem be brought, that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. 3Then they brought in the golden vessels that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. 4They drank wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.*

**IN BABYLON…MANY LOOK TO DISTRACTIONS TO KEEP THEM FROM EVIL. THE FAITHFUL LOOK TO GOD**

***Daniel 5:5-12 (ESV****) 5Immediately the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall of the king’s palace, opposite the lampstand. And the king saw the hand as it wrote. 6Then the king’s color changed, and his thoughts alarmed him; his limbs gave way, and his knees knocked together. 7The king called loudly to bring in the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers. The king declared to the wise men of Babylon, “Whoever reads this writing, and shows me its interpretation, shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around his neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.” 8Then all the king’s wise men came in, but they could not read the writing or make known to the king the interpretation. 9Then King Belshazzar was greatly alarmed, and his color changed, and his lords were perplexed. 10The queen, because of the words of the king and his lords, came into the banqueting hall, and the queen declared, “O king, live forever! Let not your thoughts alarm you or your color change. 11There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the spirit of the holy gods. In the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him, and King Nebuchadnezzar, your father—your father the king—made him chief of the magicians, enchanters, Chaldeans, and astrologers, 12because an excellent spirit, knowledge, and understanding to interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve problems were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar. Now let Daniel be called, and he will show the interpretation.”*

IN BABYLON…INFLUENCE IS GAINED BY REMAINING

AVAILABLE & FAITHFUL

***Daniel 5:13-16, 24-31(ESV)*** *13Then Daniel was brought in before the king. The king answered and said to Daniel, “You are that Daniel, one of the exiles of Judah, whom the king my father brought from Judah. 14I have heard of you that the spirit of the gods is in you, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom are found in you. 15Now the wise men, the enchanters, have been brought in before me to read this writing and make known to me its interpretation, but they could not show the interpretation of the matter. 16But I have heard that you can give interpretations and solve problems. Now if you can read the writing and make known to me its interpretation, you shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around your neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.” 17Then Daniel answered and said before the king, “Let your gifts be for yourself, and give your rewards to another. Nevertheless, I will read the writing to the king and make known to him the interpretation. …24“Then from his presence the hand was sent, and this writing was inscribed. 25And this is the writing that was inscribed: Mene, Mene, Tekel, and Parsin. 26This is the interpretation of the matter: Mene, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end; 27Tekel, you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting; 28Peres, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.” 29Then Belshazzar gave the command, and Daniel was clothed with purple, a chain of gold was put around his neck, and a proclamation was made about him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom. 30That very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed. 31And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.*

**HOW TO RESPOND WHEN THE WRITING IS ON THE WALL?**

* **RECOGNIZE GOD SEEKS OUR ATTENTION IN DIFFERENT WAYS!**
* **DISCERN HOW GOD IS SPEAKING**

**SCRIPTURE: 2 TIM. 3:16, JESUS: HEB.1:1-2, CREATION: ROM.1:1-2**

**OTHER BELIEVERS: MATT. 10:19-20, CIRCUMSTANCES / MIRACLES: PSALMS 37:23**

**HOLY SPIRIT / IMPRESSIONS / PRAYER: JOHN 16:13**

* **WHEN WE THINK GOD IS SPEAKING, TEST IT!**
* **WE CAN ONLY IGNORE GOD FOR SO LONG**
* **GOD’S WILL IS OFTEN BEST UNDERSTOOD IN THE REARVIEW MIRROR**