



GROUP STUDY GUIDE

WEEK OF AUGUST 28, 2022 | WRITING ON THE WALL

WARM-UP QUESTION

What personal accomplishment are you most proud of, and why?

DISCUSS

In Daniel 4, Nebuchadnezzar has a dream about a large, strong tree that gets cut down. Daniel interprets it, explaining that Nebuchadnezzar is the tree and that he will go from being powerful to being a madman. See what happens one year later by having someone read **Daniel 4:28-37** out loud.

- What actions and phrases stand out to you in verses 28-30? How do they point to Nebuchadnezzar's pride?
- What do the remaining verses show you about: (1) the consequences of pride, and (2) where we're supposed to focus our affection instead?

A few generations later, another king is ruling in Babylon. Read his story in **Daniel 5** together, splitting the chapter between 3-5 different group members if helpful.

- What similarities do you see between Belshazzar and his ancestor Nebuchadnezzar? What differences do you see? If helpful, create columned lists with what you observe.
- Looking at verses 1-9, what things did Belshazzar "numb out" with? Do you turn to similar things in your own life? If not, what do you "numb out" with instead?
- What's your gut reaction to the message that was written on the wall and how quickly it was fulfilled (verses 25-31)?
- God uses a lot of different things to get our attention, even drawing on a wall with the "finger of God" if necessary. What are some different ways He has been speaking to you lately? Is there a repeating theme in what He's saying? Explain.
- Looking back at Belshazzar's and Nebuchadnezzar's stories, what one thing convicts you the most? How does it apply to your personal life?

RESPOND

- Spend a few minutes in quiet reflection, asking God to show you what your personal next step is. Then have each person share their goal for the week and when they'll do it.
- Pray for each other to recognize the traps of pride or "numbing out" in your own lives and for courage to take the next step God is asking of you.

Encourage group members to read Daily Bible Reading on the church app or have it delivered to their inbox daily. Subscribe at tpcc.org/dbr. Check in with your group to share thoughts about these throughout the week!