**Daniel 5:1 – 6:1**

**Lesson 7**

**Writing on the Wall**

1. **Reflect on the past week. When did you feel closest to God? OR, was there a particular verse or message from this week’s lesson on Daniel that you found inspiring in some way?**
2. *Ironically,* *banquets are often used to describe the Kingdom of God in the New Testament.*

**In Belshazzar’s banquet, what elements or actions are particularly insulting or offensive to YHWH?**

**See Daniel 5:1-4.**

**Daniel 5:1-4**

**1**King Belshazzar gave a great banquet for a thousand of his nobles, with whom he drank. **2**Under the influence of the wine, he ordered the gold and silver vessels which Nebuchadnezzar, his father,[[a](#fen-NABRE-26090a)] had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, to be brought in so that the king, his nobles, his consorts, and his concubines might drink from them. **3**When the gold vessels taken from the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, had been brought in, and while the king, his nobles, his consorts, and his concubines were drinking **4**wine from them, they praised their gods of gold and silver, bronze and iron, wood and stone.

1. **Who *was not* invited to the above banquet that *would be invited* to a banquet in the Kingdom of God?**
2. **Why do you suppose Belshazzar wanted to drink from the cups mentioned in verse 3?**
3. **Check the footnotes in your Bible, if you have them, for information on Belshazzar and his relationship to Nebuchadnezzar. Share this with your group.**
4. **Who is writing on the wall in verses 5-6? See verses 5-6 and 23-24**

**Daniel** **5:5-6**

Suddenly, opposite the lampstand, the fingers of a human hand appeared, writing on the plaster of the wall in the king’s palace. When the king saw the hand that wrote, **6**his face became pale; his thoughts terrified him, his hip joints shook, and his knees knocked.

**Daniel 5:23-24**.

But the God in whose hand is your very breath and the whole course of your life, you did not glorify. **24**By him was the hand sent, and the writing set down.

1. **Nebuchadnezzar was given a chance to repent and change his ways. Was Belshazzar given the same opportunity?** See 5:30 and 6:1.

**Dan 5:30-6:1**

30That very night Belshazzar, the Chaldean king, was slain: 1And Darius the Mede succeeded to the kingdom at the age of sixty-two.

1. **Do the following quotes apply here?**

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." (George Santayana)

“The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ, moves on: nor all your Piety nor Wit shall lure it back to cancel half a Line, nor all your Tears wash out a Word of it.” (The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam)

1. **What are the reasons that Belshazzar falls from power and grace? See verses 22-23**

**Dan 5:22-23**

**22**You, his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this; **23**you have rebelled against the Lord of heaven. You had the vessels of his temple brought before you, so that you and your nobles, your consorts and your concubines, might drink wine from them; and you praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, that neither see nor hear nor have intelligence. But the God in whose hand is your very breath and the whole course of your life, you did not glorify. **24**By him was the hand sent, and the writing set down.

1. **What moral or spiritual messages you see emerging in this chapter? (There may be more than one).**