



Faith Talk Ideas

When Kingdoms Collide

Pastor Josh reminds us each week the book of Daniel is about.....GOD! What we learn about God is an important truth for us to consider in these days of uncertainty we're experiencing. As we have seen in prior passages, the passage this week reveals what is true about God as he demonstrates his power over yet another powerful ruler—King Belshazaar. Rulers are removed and set up, the world changes around us constantly. But God is over it all and he will not be mocked.

READ TOGETHER: Daniel 5

THINK TOGETHER: Think of the dramatic scene in the midst of a wild party, handwriting appears on the wall. Think about how this king is mocking God and his people by defiling the items taken from the temple in Jerusalem. Items intended to be used in the worship of God by consecrated priests have been reduced to vessels of debauchery. By defiling these items, they are defiling the very name of God.

DO TOGETHER: Retell the story together with a big surprise—write the message King Belshazzar received from God with invisible ink and reveal it as you tell the story! To do that, take a cotton swab or a small paint brush and put the juice of one large lemon in a small bowl. Using the swab or paint brush write MENE, MENE, TEKEL, and PARSIN on a large piece of white paper or card stock. As you get ready to tell the story together, have an iron heating up nearby. When you are ready to reveal the message pass the warm iron over the paper and the message will be revealed!

The ESV Study Bible interprets the message as “Numbered, numbered, weighed, and divided” meaning that God was numbering the days of King Balshazaar because “he had been weighed in the balance and found wanting.”

Read verses 22 and 23 aloud. How was the king not honoring God? God is holy. The items used in the temple to worship God were set apart for use only in the worship of the one true God.

Daniel's interpretation was God's judgment on the king. What happened to the king? What happened to Daniel?

Our sin separates us from God. He is holy, set apart, and we are sinners. Rejoice in the gospel! Our days, too, are numbered and God's judgment against sinners is sure. But Christ! Recite John 3:16 together and rejoice that God has made a way for sinners to be his children. Talk about what it means to believe in Jesus.

PRAY TOGETHER: Thank God for Jesus. Pray that your family would take seriously the consequences of sin and would take hold of Christ through faith in his work on the cross.