



## LION HEART| God's Graffiti |Week 5| November 9 & 10

Daniel 5; Psalm 139; Exodus 20:3-4

*These study guides are designed for individual or group study but highly encouraged to be experienced in community with a small group or other friends on the journey with Jesus.*

**The Cultural Demise:** Pastor Dan describes in detail the cultural setting of Daniel 5.

- What struck you about the culture? What phrases or details do you remember?
- What parallels to our culture and world can you draw? Journal or talk about the details and try to re-create the setting.

**Earthly Security—“til mules foal”:** The people of Babylon were confident of their security. Their defenses and walls were impenetrable. Their strategy for siege was well planned. Even under attack they were confident.

- What was their confidence? What was their “faith” in?
- What are our “walls” that we put our faith in for protection and security?
- How do these “walls” grow or hinder our faith?

**The Party, comfortable but not content:** Read Daniel 5:1-4. King Belshazzar was having a party but as Pastor Dan conjectures “maybe things were starting to drag.”

- What do you think was going on in Belshazzar’s head and heart to “show off” in this way?
- Have you ever experienced something similar? Journal or talk about a time when you tended to show off your achievements. What was your thought or motivation?
- When do you currently tend to talk about your achievements in this way? Be honest.

**Mis-Use of the Sacred:** We aren’t given much detail in vs 2-4. We don’t know the awareness or attitude of the party toward these vessels as they are brought out.

- What do you conjecture about the attitude of the drinkers?
- Have you ever missed something sacred that was right in front of you? What causes us to do this?

**Misplaced praise:** Daniel 5:4 can be a metaphor for our American life today. While drinking from the bounty of the most high God we give praise to.....

- Talk about what the gods of gold, silver, bronze and wood are in our culture today.
- We all struggle with this. What ‘god’ do you most struggle with? If you are able, share with the group how you deal with the struggle.

**Holy Threads:** Pastor Dan gave six examples of holy vessels that have been entrusted to us by God, intended to produce praise and worship. Yet these same vessels can be misused.



- The vessel of sexual expression; speech; earthly treasure; parenthood; vocation; the arts.
- What does this idea of “holy vessels” bring up in you? Journal of talk about it with the group.
- Which thread is most surprising to you?
- Which one do you tend to misuse? Downplay? Ignore? Why?

**The Hand of God:** Daniel 5:5-6 describes the reaction of the oblivious king, at his most opulent party, in his most secure castle, when visited by God. Yet we read in Psalm 139:1-10 our obliviousness, our rapture with opulence and our contented physical security do not impact God. He is always with us. Pastor Dan quotes the Westminster Shorter Catechism:

*“The chief end [purpose] of humanity is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.”*

- What does “keeping our vessels clean” look like in light of these scriptures?
- How often do you “enjoy God”? What does it look like for you?
- How can we encourage each other to see and feel this enjoyment in our group life together?

**Practice of the Week:** Pastor Dan closed with, “Just suppose God were to penetrate all the walls that you and I tend to put up against giving Him total Lordship over of our lives. Imagine for an instant that He could get past the tall rationalizations and the thick habits and the long history we’ve built up of doing things a certain way. *If the hand of God were to write a personal message upon the wall of your life right now, what words would appear?*”

In the spirit of Psalm 139, meditate in prayer on the question and listen for God’s answer. Discern what God is impressing upon you and write it down. Ask God to show you what it means. Listen for the Spirit’s guidance and wisdom.

**We’d love to hear from you!**

If you have thoughts, questions, comments, ideas on how to make these study guides more meaningful for you or your small group, please let us know.

We also enjoy hearing how God is using these study guides in your lives.

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