TRACK ONE

Family Study

For parents, grandparents, and kids of every age. Watch together, read the story, talk, play, and pray.



"Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords..." (Daniel 5:1, WEB). A still from the film.

The Story, Simply Told

Retold in simple words from Daniel 5. Words in quotation marks are paraphrased for children.

Many years after the fiery furnace, a new king ruled Babylon. His name was Belshazzar. One night he threw a huge party for a thousand of his important leaders.

While everyone was drinking wine, Belshazzar had an idea. He sent for the gold and silver cups that had been taken long ago from God's temple in Jerusalem. These cups were special. They belonged to God and were made for worshiping Him. But Belshazzar and his guests drank from them and praised idols of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

Suddenly, the fingers of a hand appeared and began to write on the wall of the palace, near the lamp. The king turned pale. His knees knocked together. He shouted for his wise men: whoever can read this writing will be dressed in purple, wear a gold chain, and become the third most powerful ruler in the kingdom! But none of them could read it.

Then the queen came in. She remembered a man named Daniel, who had served King Nebuchadnezzar years before, a man God had given great wisdom. So Daniel, now an old man, was brought in.

Daniel said, "Keep your gifts. But I will read the writing." First he reminded Belshazzar how God had humbled proud King Nebuchadnezzar until he honored God. "You knew all this," Daniel said, "but you have not humbled your heart." Then he read the words: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. They meant that God had counted the days of Belshazzar's kingdom and brought it to an end, that the king had been weighed on God's scales and found too light, and that his kingdom would be given to the Medes and Persians.

That very night, Belshazzar was killed, and Darius the Mede received the kingdom.

Belshazzar knew the story. But knowing was not enough. He never humbled his heart.

Talk Together

AGES 4-7

1. Whose special cups did the king use at his party?
2. What appeared on the wall? How did the king feel?
3. Who explained the writing to the king?

AGES 8-12

1. Why was it wrong for the king to use God's cups to praise idols?
2. What does "weighed and found wanting" mean?
3. Pride means acting like we don't need God. What does being humble look like at school or at home?

TEENS

1. Belshazzar knew the truth about God but ignored it. Why is that so easy to do?
2. Daniel told a king the truth respectfully and turned down his reward. Where do you need that kind of courage?
3. Where would you like Jesus to help you grow in humility or honesty?

Try This Together

Secret Writing 10 MINUTES A parent writes **GOD GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE** in white crayon on white paper. Kids paint over it with watercolors to reveal the message. Talk about how Daniel, with wisdom from God, explained what the king's wise men could not.

The Hanger Scale 5 MINUTES Tie a paper cup securely to each end of a clothes hanger with string, and hold it low yourself. Put a small closed water bottle in one cup and a paper "crown" in the other. Ask: *Does God weigh our stuff, or our hearts?* Read 1 Samuel 16:7 together.

MEMORY VERSE

"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

JAMES 4:6, WEB

Younger children: learn "...gives grace to the humble."

A FAMILY PRAYER

Dear God, every breath we take is a gift from You. Forgive us when we act proud, as if we don't need You. Help us to be humble, to say sorry quickly, and to give You thanks. Thank You for Jesus, who humbled Himself for us, so that we can be forgiven and made right with You. In His name we pray, amen.