



Week 5 Discussion Questions

Week of 5/21/23

Text: Daniel 5

As a reminder, the *Winsome Living* series will wrap up next week and discussion questions will not be written over the summer.

Icebreaker: Who do you reach out to when you need wisdom or guidance in life?

1. Read verses 1-12. What do you notice in these verses that's similar to other events we've seen so far in the book of Daniel?

Application: Verses 3-4 tell us that sacred objects from the Jerusalem temple were used irreverently for Belshazzar's party and common things (gold, silver, bronze, etc.) were made sacred. Can you think of examples where our culture tries to do this too—profaning what's sacred and making sacred what's common?

2. Read verses 13-16. Daniel had a reputation among the unbelievers of Babylon for being able to do what others could not because "the spirit of the holy gods" was in him. What have we seen "that Daniel" (v. 13) do in past weeks to give credit to God for what has happened?

Application: It's easy to want to take personal credit for abilities God has given us. How can we help others see that our gifts are evidence of God's greatness rather than our own?

3. Read verses 17-23. Are you surprised that Belshazzar hasn't learned to be humble and hasn't honored God after all Nebuchadnezzar learned?

Application: Do you find this true to life, where one generation either isn't aware of or doesn't embrace the lessons of the previous generation? What can we learn from this as we think about the younger generations of our day?

4. Daniel's interpretation comes in verses 24-28. What can we be reminded of here about how God relates to kings and kingdoms?

Application: Think about world events today. Do you find it easy or difficult to trust in God's sovereignty over the affairs of our world? Explain your answer.

5. Verse 29 records yet another promotion or public honor for Daniel yet verse 17 shows that Daniel wasn't seeking it. Do you think it matters that Daniel wasn't pursuing public recognition and self-promotion? Why?

Building Christ-centered communities of people fully devoted to loving God and loving others.

Application: Do you think Daniel's attitude in this chapter could be an example to us of what it means to be winsome? Is it possible to be both winsome and self-promoting?