

Daniel and the Spooky Hand

Lesson Overview

In today's lesson, we're learning about a crazy story that involved another king and Daniel. King Belshazzar came to power after king Nebuchadnezzar, the king we learned about in another lesson. King Belshazzar threw a party for his friends. He used the special cups that King Neb stole from the temple in Jerusalem. They also worshipped false gods. King Belshazzar made a few mistakes. First, those cups that were stolen from the temple were special. They came from God's house so God wasn't happy to see them disrespected. Second, the king worshipped false gods. You would think this king would've learned from what happened to King Neb when he didn't worship God. During the party, a hand suddenly appeared on the wall and wrote a riddle. Everyone was really scared! The king wanted to know what the riddle meant and only Daniel could tell him. The riddle was similar to the dream King Neb had. God reminded King Belshazzar that he is the real God and he has the power to make any king strong or weak. King Belshazzar didn't learn from what happened to Neb and his power was taken away, too. Let's learn from this story and be wise kids who learn from past mistakes.

Big Idea

Wise people learn from past mistakes.

Key Question

What should King Belshazzar have learned from the past?

Memory Verse

Deuteronomy 4:9 "Be careful never to forget what you yourself have seen."

Classroom Agenda

- (5 min) Let kids start working on Activity Page #1.**
- (5 min) WARM UP: Share a mistake you made recently. Did you learn from it?** (Tip: Maybe you broke your mom's favorite picture or hit your sibling. When we mess up, we need to learn from it so we don't repeat it.)
- (5 min) PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard.** Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
- (20 min) LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
- (2 min) RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
- (3 min) KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **Disrespecting God is a bad idea.** (King Neb mistakenly thought that his power came from him. But, he learned that only God has real power. God taught him a lesson by taking his kingdom away. King Belshazzar made a similar mistake. He worshipped false gods and disrespected the real God and he was punished for it, too.)
 - Bonus Questions:** How did both kings disrespect God? Why is God the only one worthy of our worship?
4th-5th: Do you keep making the same mistake over and over? Explain. What do you need to do instead?
- (5 min) EXPLORE: Read Proverbs 13:13. Who are the wise people you should listen to in your life? What happens when we don't listen to good advice?** (Answer: You should listen and obey your parents and teachers. They love you and want you to succeed in life. Ultimately, you should obey God and his word. When we ignore good advice, we invite trouble into our lives!)
- (10 min) PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
- (5 min) CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to pursueGODkids.org to find this week's lesson video.

Teacher instructions: Choose an activity for your classroom.

OPTION 1: DECODE THE SECRET MESSAGE

Instructions:

- Before class, cut up the Secret Message template (page 5) and place in a bowl or basket. Have kids come up and pull a word out. Each time, tape up it up on the whiteboard. Once all the words are on the board, move the words around to discover the secret message.
- Secret message: "Don't be like King Belshazzar who didn't learn from past mistakes."
- If you have time, read the story from Daniel 5:1-5,12,17-20,22-23. Remind the kids that King Belshazzar should've learned from King Neb's mistake. Both kings forgot that God is the only one worth worshipping. Everything we have comes from him. This story teaches us to be wise and learn from our mistakes so we can avoid trouble.

OPTION 2: SPOOKY HAND CRAFT

Instructions:

- Give each kid a Hand template (page 6). Have the kids color their hand and then have them glue the Statements and Memory verse on the hand.
- As they work, read the story from Daniel 5:1-5,12,17-20,22-23. Remind the kids that King Belshazzar should've learned from King Neb's mistake. Both kings forgot that God is the only one worth worshipping. Everything we have comes from him. This story teaches us to be wise and learn from our mistakes so we can avoid trouble.

Supplies needed: Hand template (pg. 6, pre cut, 1 set per kid), Crayons, Glue



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Hey kids and parents! Fill in the blanks as you talk about this week's lesson together. Have fun!

Key Points

- King Belshazzar had a big party and worshiped _____ idols.
- A _____ appeared and wrote a riddle on the wall.
- The riddle was a _____ that the king forgot to learn from the past.
- Wise people _____ from past mistakes.

Big Idea

Wise people learn from past mistakes.

Key Question

What should King Belshazzar have learned from the past?

Memory Verse

Deuteronomy 4:9 "Be careful never to forget what you yourself have seen."

Talk About It

1. What's your favorite part of the video? What's one thing you learned from it?
2. Share about a mistake you made recently. Did you learn from it?
3. What was the name of the king in the story? What did he do that was so wrong?
4. What appeared on the wall that wrote a riddle? What did Daniel say it meant?
5. Read Proverbs 13:13. Who are the wise people you should listen to in your life? What happens when we don't listen to good advice?
6. How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?

Instructions: Solve the puzzle and color the picture.

NAME 3 SPORTS YOU USE YOUR HANDS TO PLAY

1.

2.

3.

Big Idea

Key Question

Memory Verse

Deuteronomy 4:____ "Be
 _____ never to forget
 what _____ yourself have
 _____."



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DON'T

DIDN'T

BE LIKE

LEARN

KING

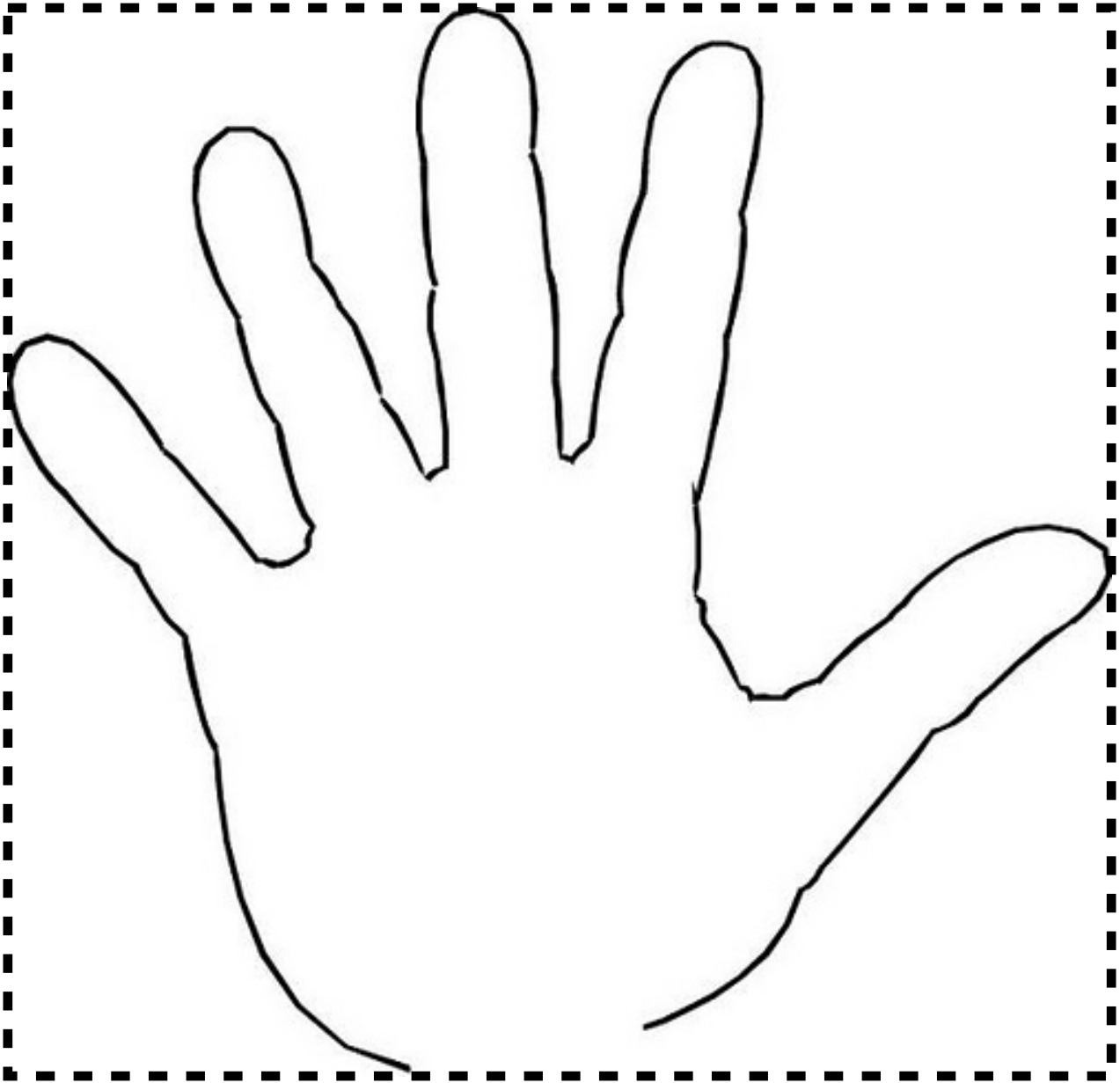
FROM

BELSHAZZAR

PAST

WHO

MISTAKES



GOD WROTE A RIDDLE ON THE WALL TO TEACH KING BELSHAZZAR A LESSON

THE KING SHOULD'VE LEARNED FROM PAST MISTAKES

Deuteronomy 4:9 "Be careful never to forget what you yourself have seen."