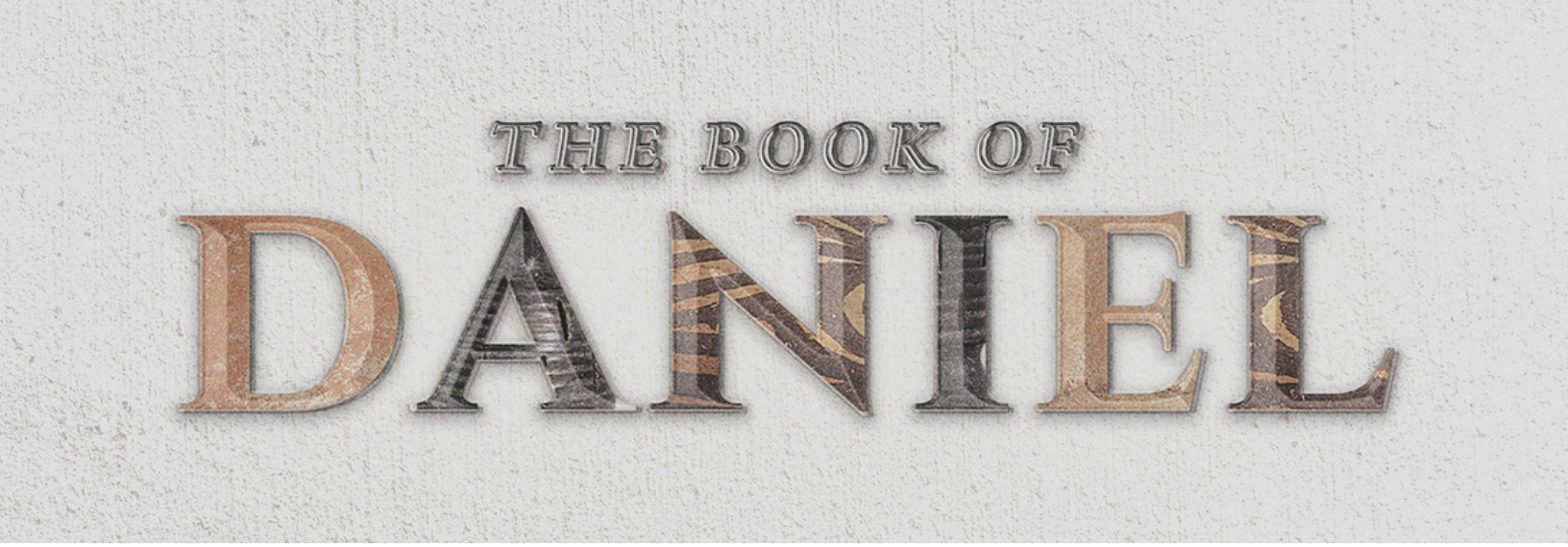

SMALL GROUP GUIDE **OCT 19, 2025**

The Writing on the Wall

Daniel 5 presents a sobering moment in biblical history on the fall of King Belshazzar and the Babylonian Empire. More than a historical account, it's a spiritual wake-up call. Through the mysterious message written by God's hand on the palace wall, we see His judgment and sovereignty on full display. Belshazzar's downfall is contrasted with his father Nebuchadnezzar's redemption. These two figures in Daniel remind us that knowing the truth is not enough, we must respond to God's Word with humility and obedience. The story of Belshazzar invites us to reflect on our own areas of arrogance and consider the ways we may not be listening to God seriously.

- Share about a time in your life when you experienced the "writing on the wall" as a warning or judgment. What happened? What was it like?
- Read Daniel 5:1-6. What does Belshazzar's use of the sacred temple goblets reveal about his attitude toward God? What examples can you offer of similar attitudes towards God today?
- How does this instance of God writing on the wall with Belshazzar compare with Jesus' writing in the ground with the religious leaders in John 8:1-11?
- Read Daniel 5:18-23. How does Daniel compare Belshazzar with his father, Nebuchadnezzar? What might true heart-change and humility look like in our lives?
- When you hear the truth, "Your life is in God's hands," how does that make you feel? How was this truth different for Daniel and Belshazzar?
- How are you listening to God through His Word and prayer? How is He working in situations in your life?

Praying together

Pair up with 2-3 members of your group of the same gender. Share an area of your life that might be a warning or caution, like a "writing on the wall." Identify one step God might be asking you to take in response.