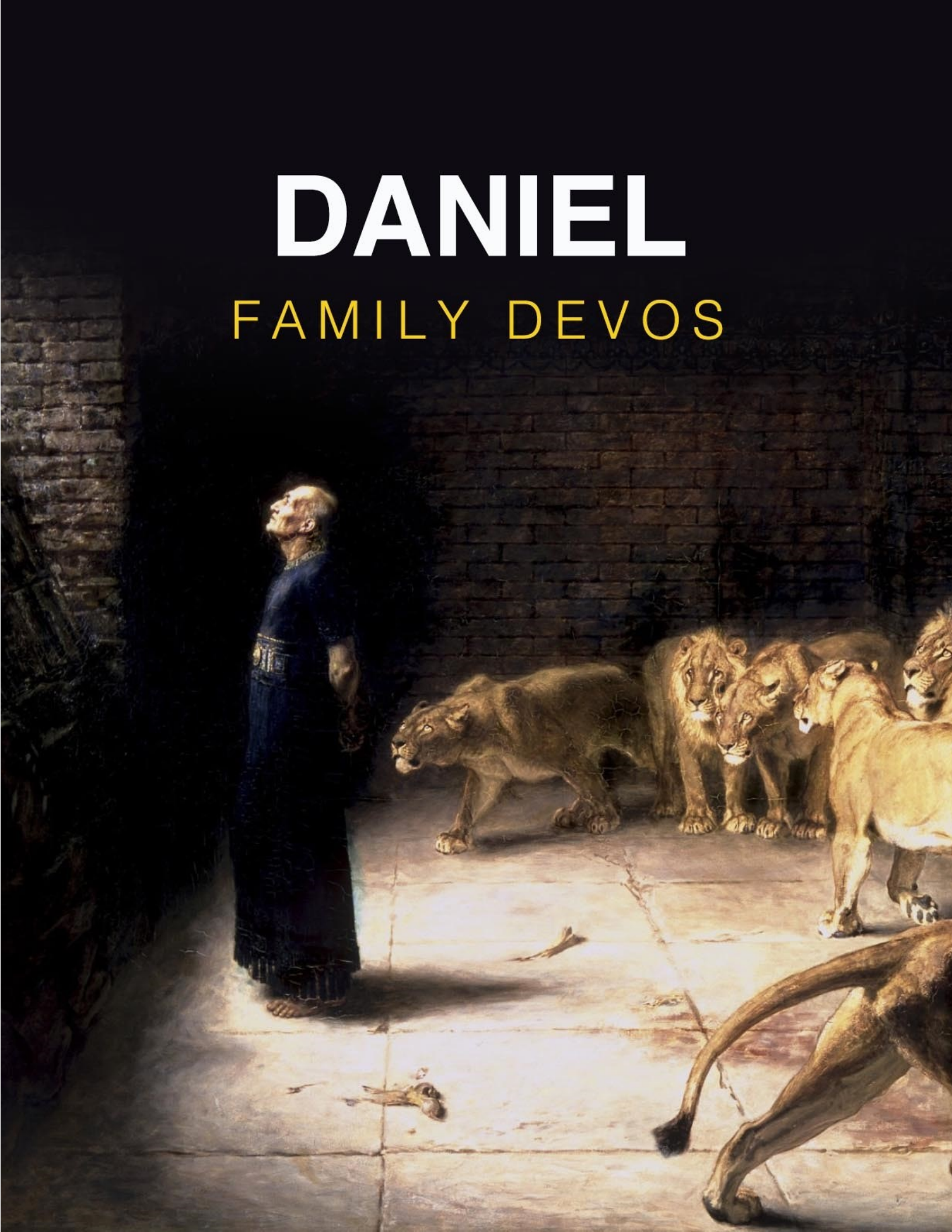


DANIEL

FAMILY DEVOS



The Writing on the Wall

Scripture: Daniel 5

Memory Verse: Proverbs 16:18

“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”

For My Family:

About 25 years had gone by since the end of Daniel 4. King Nebuchadnezzar had passed off the scene and his grandson, Belshazzar, sat on the throne. As we learned last time, God humbled the proud King Nebuchadnezzar, who then worshiped God and warned others against the foolishness of pride. Belshazzar knew all of this but didn't take it seriously (4:22), like many who hear God's Word today. They hear of God's signs and wonders, hear people tell them about how God changed their lives, and hear people talk about their need for salvation. They hear, but they refuse to listen. We shouldn't be discouraged at this. As we saw with Nebuchadnezzar, even the most stubborn person can change, but the sad reality is that some choose not to.

This was the foolishness of Belshazzar. He mocked the God of Israel by treating the holy things taken from the temple as if they were common, and boasted in the greatness of the gods of Babylon. Though his city was besieged by enemies, Belshazzar had everything he needed to be safe (or so he thought): plenty of food and water, and thick walls, and strong gates. What could go wrong? Well, those walls and gates couldn't keep God out. Fingers appeared out of nowhere at his party and wrote a message for him on the wall. Terrified, he offered a great reward for anyone who could tell him what these words meant. When no one could, Daniel was called for. *“You have not humbled your heart... and have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven,”* said Daniel. The words written by the fingers were words of judgment to the ungodly king, and that very night he was killed and the kingdom conquered.

Sometimes people live as if things will continue as they always have. They have been told about God's greatness and goodness, but continue on as if their lives are better off without Him. Little do they know every breath is a gift from God! If Belshazzar teaches us anything, it's that God will not be patient forever. Today is the day of salvation! We aren't promised tomorrow. Jesus is coming back! This is good news for those who accept Him, for they will live with Him for all of eternity in the new kingdom, but for those who reject Him: *“pride comes before destruction.”* This is a sad and hard truth, but there is more for us to do than to just be sad. We must pray and proclaim. We must share and show the whole world the good news of Jesus! That God is not willing that any should perish, but sent His Son to take the punishment for our sin so that we could receive the gift of eternal life.

Questions for Young Children:

What appeared during Belshazzar's party and what did it do?

Belshazzar thought he had everything he needed for protection and safety, but what was he missing?

Who can you pray for that doesn't know Jesus? Who is someone you could tell about Jesus? (Encourage your kids in this. Make this question a part of your family routine. Be creative. Have them draw pictures, write cards, or bake something for neighbors, family, etc.)

Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

How is forgetting or ignoring what God has told us in His Word harmful?

Why does God care about how we live our lives?

Who can you pray for that doesn't know Jesus? Who is someone you could tell about Jesus today? (Again, they can get creative in this. Who can they text, what could they post to social media, etc.)