

**Writing on the Wall - Art Workshop story script** by Deborah Ward from: Williams Lake Church of the Nazarene, Waterford, MI (2010) Printed from rotation.org

**Opening Adaptation** added by member Luanne Payne (2022)

**In advance:** prepare the following **Hidden Message Clue Cards**, by writing and/or drawing the following items, one per card. Then hide them around the room (make note of where you hid them.) If you have a large group make doubles. Clue Card suggestions:

1. Crown - to be raised anytime they hear Belshazzar or Nebuchadnezzar
2. Goblet
3. Daniel - can just be a stick man or stick man in robe
4. Hand
5. Mene (make 2) - an X or the word rule with an x through it
6. Tekel - set of scales - one side lower than the other
7. Parsin - gavel hammering

As students arrive (show them a sample clue card) ask them to search the room until they find "one" clue card , then sit down, and take a marker to reveal what's hidden on the card.

After everyone has found a Clue Card if there are still more cards hidden, let them find the rest (if needed, give clues where to look). Before reading the script go over meaning of each Clue Card, and then tell them to listen for their word(s) and hold up their card anytime they hear it.

### **Story Script** (clues underlined)

King Belshazzar had become king of Babylon. His father, Nebuchadnezzar, had conquered the nation of Israel, God's chosen people. When he did, he took silver and gold goblets from the temple and put them in his treasury. He also took some of the best young men and trained them to serve him. One of these young men was Daniel.

One day, when King Belshazzar was feasting with his nobles, he told his servants to bring out the gold and silver goblets from the royal treasury. The king and his nobles used these goblets to toast the gods of Babylon, false gods made from wood and stone.

Suddenly, a hand appeared in the room. With its finger it wrote on the wall. The king was really frightened. He was so scared that his legs shook, and he could not stand up.

He called for his magicians and wise men to tell him what the writing said and what it meant. He promised great riches and power to the man who could tell him what it said. However, none of the magicians and wise men could figure out what it meant.

The king was despairing when his wife, the queen, entered the room. She told him about a man named Daniel. He was very wise and had served his father, King Nebuchadnezzar. She was sure that Daniel could figure it out.

The king had Daniel come in. He promised Daniel riches and power if he could explain the writing.

Daniel told the king: "You can keep your riches and power. I don't want them. But I will tell you what the writing says. God was good to your father, King Nebuchadnezzar. He gave him this great kingdom of Babylon.

But your father forgot that. Instead, he thought that he did it himself. So God struck him and made him act like an animal until King Nebuchadnezzar realized that God was in charge. You knew all of this, King Belshazzar, but you did not learn from it. Instead, you dishonored God by using His goblets to praise false gods that don't even exist!

This is what the writing says: Mene, Mene, Tekel, Parsin. Mene means that God is ending your rule. Tekel means you have been weighed and haven't measured up. Parsin means that your authority will be taken away from you."

The king ordered that Daniel be given riches and power, but Daniel's words were true. That very night, Belshazzar was killed, and another man became king.