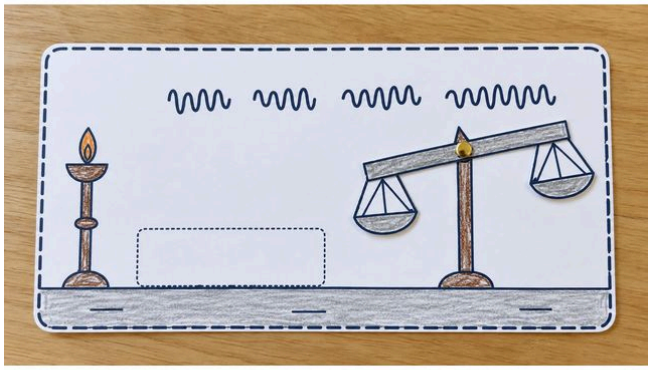
Preschool–Grade 5

Handwriting on the Wall Craft

Thou art weighed in the balances · Daniel 5 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



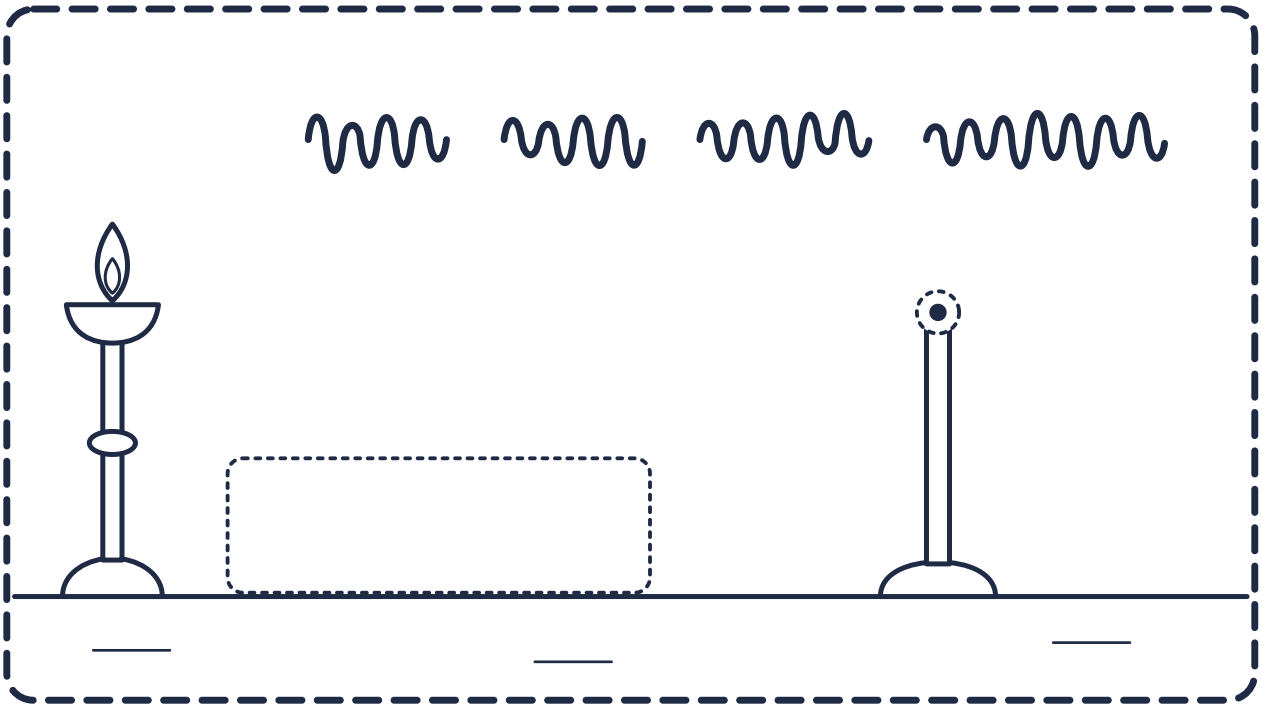
Harder

Both levels are a wide card: the white plaister wall of the king's palace with a gray floor, a brown candlestick with an orange flame on the left, and four dark wavy scribbles across the wall for the writing, over against the candlestick (Daniel 5:5). On the right stands a brown post, and a gray balance beam with two pans is fastened to its top with a brad, so it tips up and down: "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting" (5:27). Medium (left): the wall card. Harder (right): the same card with a strip of yellow golden vessels standing on the floor between the candlestick and the balance, for the vessels from the house of God (5:3).

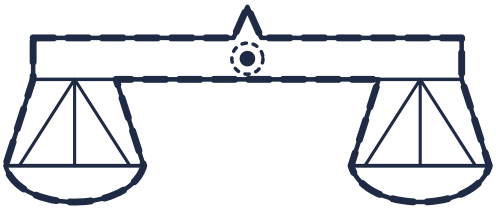
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Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



card: leave the wall white, floor gray, candlestick brown, flame orange, balance post brown
(leave the writing marks as they are; the dotted band is for the harder level)



balance beam: gray. A grown-up pokes the brad hole through the dot on the beam and the dot at the top of the post.

TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.

Daniel 5:27 (KJV)

verse strip: glue it on the back of the card

Color each piece the way its label says. Cut out the card, the balance beam and the verse strip. A grown-up pokes the brad hole through the two dots.

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Name: _____

✂ Harder level

Golden vessels (harder level)



vessels yellow (golden), ground strip under them gray, the space behind them white

How to add the golden vessels

1. Make the wall card from page 2 first, with the balance beam on its brad and the verse strip on the back of the card.
2. Color the vessels yellow, because they were golden (Daniel 5:3), and the ground strip under them gray. Leave the space behind them white like the wall. Cut out the strip on the dashed line.
3. Find the dotted band on the card, on the floor between the candlestick and the balance. Put glue on the back of the strip and press it on the dotted band.
4. Tell it: "they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem" (5:3). They were holy things, made for worshiping God, but the king and his lords drank wine in them and praised the gods of gold and silver (5:4).
5. Then point to the writing on the wall and tip the balance. Daniel told the king he had "not humbled thine heart" (5:22).

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/handwriting-on-the-wall-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), one brass paper fastener (brad) per child, gray, brown and orange crayons or markers, scissors, glue sticks and a sharp pencil. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child and a yellow crayon.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out the card, the balance beam and the verse strip, and attach the beam with the brad. Keep the brads with you: they are small, so a grown-up handles them for little ones.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's card, balance beam and verse strip and fasten the beam with the brad. Kids color the floor, the candlestick, the flame, the post and the beam, then tip the balance up and down. Glue the verse strip on the back for them.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color and cut out the pieces themselves, and a grown-up pokes the brad hole. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the wall card like the medium level. Then add the strip of golden vessels from page 3 on the dotted band, for the vessels taken out of the house of God (Daniel 5:3). This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color the card:** leave the wall white (plaister is a smooth white plaster), color the floor gray, the candlestick brown, its flame orange, and the balance post brown. Leave the writing marks as they are.
2. **Color the beam:** color the whole balance beam piece gray, the beam, the chains and the two pans.
3. **Cut:** cut out the card, the balance beam and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
4. **Balance:** lay the dot in the middle of the beam on top of the dot at the top of the post. A grown-up pokes a small hole through both dots with a sharp pencil. Push the brad through from the front and open its legs flat on the back.
5. **Verse:** turn the card over. Glue the verse strip on the back, below the brad, and read it together.
6. **Tell it:** point to the writing and say the four words, "MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN" (Daniel 5:25). Then tip the beam so one pan goes up high as you say, "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting" (5:27).

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Questions to ask while kids work

- How many lords came to King Belshazzar's feast? *(A thousand, Daniel 5:1)*
- Where did the golden vessels come from? *(The temple of the house of God at Jerusalem, 5:3)*
- Point to the writing. Where did the fingers of a man's hand write? *(Upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace, over against the candlestick, 5:5)*
- What happened to the king's knees? *(They smote one against another, 5:6)*
- Could the king's wise men read the writing? *(No, 5:8)*
- What did Daniel say about the king's gifts? *(Let thy gifts be to thyself, 5:17)*
- What had the king not done, even though he knew all this? *(He had not humbled his heart, 5:22)*
- What were the four words on the wall? *(MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN, 5:25)*
- Tip the balance. What did TEKEL mean? *(Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting, 5:27)*
- Who took the kingdom that night? *(Darius the Median, 5:31)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained: vessels** are cups and bowls; **plaister** is plaster, the smooth coat on a wall; a **candlestick** is a lampstand; **balances** are a scale for weighing; **weighed** means checked to see how heavy; **wanting** means not enough, too light.
- **What the Bible says:** Daniel 5 does not say what the candlestick, the vessels or the balances looked like, how many vessels there were, or what color anything was. The shapes and colors are the craft's simple picture of the story. The balance stands for Daniel's words in 5:27; the Bible does not say a real scale was in the room.
- **The writing is plain marks on purpose.** The real words are in Daniel 5:25, so kids say them out loud instead of reading them off the wall. No hand and no person is drawn on the template.
- **Brads:** poke the hole after the coloring is done, or the paper tears. If you have no brads, glue the beam on the post tipped to one side.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything and attach the brads yourself. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Let every child tip the balance while you say "weighed in the balances" together.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free handwriting on the wall lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/handwriting-on-the-wall.

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