Preschool–Grade 6

# The Handwriting on the Wall

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

**Main point:** Be humble: God is the King over everything.
**Bible passage:** Daniel 5. Read Daniel 5:1–31 yourself before class.
**Memory verse:** "Thou art weighed in the balances" *Daniel 5:27 (KJV)*. **Weighed** means checked to see how heavy. **Balances** means a scale.
**You need:** a Bible, two paper lunch bags, a few toy blocks, a tissue, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
**Before class:** put the blocks in one bag and the tissue in the other. Put a bookmark in your Bible at Daniel 5.

## 1. Opening game: Heavy or Light? (5 minutes)

Let each child hold the two bags, one in each hand. Ask: "Which one is heavy? Which one is light?" Let them lift the light bag up high and hold the heavy bag down low. Say: "Today we will hear a true story about a king, some writing on a wall, and God's scale."

## 2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Daniel 5. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

King Belshazzar had a big party (Daniel 5:1). *(Pretend to eat.)*
He used the gold cups from God's house. That was wrong (5:2–3). *(Shake your head no.)*
He praised idols, not God (5:4). *(Fold your arms.)*
Fingers of a hand wrote on the wall (5:5). *(Write in the air with one finger.)*
The king was scared. His knees knocked (5:6). *(Knock your knees together.)*
No one could read it (5:8). *(Shrug your shoulders.)*
Then Daniel came (5:13). Daniel served God (6:16). *(Walk in place.)*
Daniel read the writing (5:17, 5:25). *(Hold up your hands like a book.)*
God weighed the king on His scale, and he was not enough (5:27). *(Arms out wide; lift one arm up high.)*
The king did not humble his heart (5:22). **Say it with me: "God is the King!"**
That night King Belshazzar died, and a new king took the kingdom (5:30–31). *(Sit down quietly.)*
**Say it with me: "I will be humble. God is in charge!"**


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## 3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. What did the king use at his party? *(Gold cups from God's house, Daniel 5:2–3)*
2. What wrote on the wall? *(The fingers of a hand, 5:5)*
3. Who read the writing? *(Daniel, 5:17)*

## 4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "God said to the king, 'Thou art weighed in the balances.' That means God checked the king on His scale." Teach the motion: hold both arms out wide like a scale, then tip them, one up and one down. Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Daniel 5:27" and clap three times.

## 5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
*Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.*

## 6. Activity: God's Scale (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a simple scale: a post with a long bar on top and a bowl hanging from each end. They color it. While they color, ask: "Who read the writing? Who is the King over everything?" Kids who finish early can play Heavy or Light? again with the bags.

## 7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Dear God, You are the King over everything.
Help me be humble and put You first. In Jesus' name, amen."

**Tips for little ones:** keep the story moving and let every child hold the bags. If they get wiggly, do the knocking knees and the scale motion again. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

**If a child is scared of the hand on the wall:** say it was a message from God. God is good, and He loves us.


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