



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Aliens in a Strange Land  
Fall Year 4, Lesson 25

# The Handwriting on the Wall

**Take Home Point:** \*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

\*If you think you're high and mighty,  
The writing's on the wall.  
Honor God and worship him,  
Or surely you will fall!  
(In brief form: \*Only worship God)

**Bible Event:** Daniel 5

**Key Verse:** 1 Timothy 6:17, "Tell those who have the riches of this world not to be arrogant and not to place their confidence in anything as uncertain as riches. Instead, they should place their confidence in God."

**We will help kids know:**

- The Bible Event of the Handwriting on Belshazzar's Wall and its interpretation by Daniel.
- If you think you are high and mighty, ignoring God, beware! You will fall.
- Realize that despite our faults, if we turn to God, we always find forgiveness because of Jesus our Savior.

**We will help kids feel:**

- Caution if they think they can ignore God's warning about being high and mighty.
- Confident that because of Christ, we will be found faithful.

**We will help kids do:**

- Discover the word "fall" that mysteriously appears.
- Discuss times when they might have fallen from prideful positions.
- Use special markers to make the mark of the cross, while investigating the Bible reading

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# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3	Students will discuss what they have done to deserve good standing with God. They will be surprised that it's not what we do but who we are.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a pack of Crayola® Color Changeable™ markers per group (Can be found at retail stores or <a href="http://www.amazon.com">www. Amazon.com</a> or <a href="http://www.crayolastore.com">www.crayolastore.com</a> )</li> <li>• small piece of white paper</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	4  7  10  10	<p><b>Overview</b></p> <p><b>Puppet Presentation:</b> “Gordy Sees the Handwriting on the Wall”—Gordy finds out that doing more good things than bad doesn’t always measure up.</p> <p><b>Video:</b> Daniel reads the handwriting on the wall for a king who is frantic to know its meaning.</p> <p><b>Puppet Conclusion:</b> “Gordy Sees the Handwriting on the Wall”—A child volunteer is sent through the Alien Transporter Machine to discover what it means to always be humble and faithful to God.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• two sheets of paper to tape to Gordy’s hands</li> <li>• alien transporter machine video <i>Animated Stories from the Bible: Daniel</i>, produced by Nest Family Entertainment, 1993, ISBN 1-56489-076-7, order from <a href="http://www.nestfamily.com">www.nestfamily.com</a></li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	4	Students see the symbol of the cross appear on their “wall” as a reminder that Jesus is the only one who can save us.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a pack of Crayola® Color Changeable markers per group</li> <li>• a small piece of paper per child</li> </ul>

# Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

**Supplies:** Crayola® “Color Changeables™” markers and small sheet of white paper. In advance, write the word, “fall” on the paper with the clear magic wand.

Ask kids:

**Do you know what it means to be “high and mighty”?** (Someone who acts like they are better than others.)

Let kids discuss and then ask them if they know anyone who sometimes acts “high and mighty”.

Do you ever act “high and mighty?”

Show kids the white paper with the word “fall” written in invisible ink and say:

**Today I have a mystery I want you to discover. There is a secret word on this paper. Can you read what it says?**

**Okay. Here is a clue: “Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall. Humpty Dumpty had a great.....”**

Color over the invisible word with a different color changeable marker and “fall” will appear.

**We will meet a king in the Bible, who thought he was so important, he didn’t need to follow God. He thought he was high and mighty.**

**Are there people today that don’t follow God? They think they are so good or important they don’t need God. Who might they be? Do you know any?**  
Discuss.

**We want you to remember this today:**

***\*If you think you’re high and mighty,  
The writing’s on the wall.  
Honor God and worship him,  
Or surely you will fall!***

Have kids practice the take home point by repeating it a phrase at a time. Then say:

**Today we will hear how God did some secret writing on a wall a long time ago. There was a king who worshiped idols of silver and gold. He thought he was high and mighty. But God had a message for him. Listen carefully in large group to see if you can discover that message.**

# Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible Event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

**Puppet Presentation:** “Gordy Sees the Handwriting on the Wall”—Gordy finds out that doing more good things than bad doesn’t always measure up.

**Video Sketch:** Show the video, *Animated Stories from the Bible: Daniel*—Daniel reads the handwriting on the wall for a king who is frantic to know its meaning. Start clip with the scene and end it after showing the city burning and the statement “I hate Daniel.”

**Puppet Conclusion:** “Gordy Sees the Handwriting on the Wall”—A child volunteer is sent through the Alien Transporter Machine to discover what it means to always heed God’s word and be humble and faithful to God.

# Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible Event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

## Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to Daniel 5 in their Bibles.

**King Belshazzar threw a large dinner party for 1,000 nobles. As they were eating and drinking, he ordered the servants to bring what to the party?** (*Daniel 5:2. He ordered that the gold and silver utensils that his grandfather Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple in Jerusalem be brought to him.*)

**What did the people praise while drinking from the utensils?** (*Daniel 5:4. They praised their gods made of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood or stone.*)

**Then what happened that made the king pale and his knees go weak with fear?** (*Daniel 5:5. Fingers of a person’s hand appeared and wrote strange words on the wall. The king could not understand the special writing.*)

**After Belshazzar's wise advisers failed to read the writing or tell the king its meaning, why did the queen suggest Daniel read the writing on the wall?** *(Daniel 5:12. She remembered Daniel was found to have knowledge, judgment and an extraordinary spirit. He was given the ability by God to interpret dreams, solve riddles, and untangle problems.)*

**What did the handwriting on the wall say?** *(Daniel 5:25-28. "Numbered, Numbered, Weighed, and Divided." It meant Belshazzar's days will come to an end because he has been found lacking. He would lose the throne and kingdom to the Medes and Persians.)*

### **Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?**

**Why do you think Belshazzar wanted the gold and silver utensils brought out?** *(To be prideful and show off.)*

**How do you think Belshazzar felt when Daniel reminded him that Nebuchadnezzar was removed from the throne when he became arrogant, conceited and overconfident?**

**In what ways was Belshazzar "weighed" and found to be lacking?** *(Prideful and served idols of gold and silver.)*

### **Application Questions: What does this mean to me?**

**Because King Belshazzar thought he was too "high and mighty" for God, he had a great fall. After hearing the story of Daniel and Belshazzar, what do you think God would want to write on your wall? What does he want you to know?**

Give kids time to reflect and share their thoughts.

**God knows that we are sinful and prideful people. Even if we are good more than we are bad, that is not enough to get us to heaven. We need Jesus to save us, because we all are sinners.**

**The Bible tells us all people have sinned and fallen short of God's glory.**

*\*If you think you're high and mighty,  
The writing's on the wall.  
Honor God and worship him,  
Or surely you will fall!*

**Because we all fall short, we need Jesus. Because of Jesus' death on the cross in our place, we will never be lacking when God "weighs" us. But we do need to accept his sacrifice as a gift to us.**

Application Activity:

*Supplies: piece of paper per child and markers from warm-up.*

Pass out paper and have each child draw a cross on their paper with the magic wand or invisible marker.

**God wants to write on your wall that you need Jesus as your Savior. When we humbly accept him, we won't be high and mighty. And sometimes when we do think too highly of ourselves, we can turn to Jesus and he will catch us when we fall.**

**The Bible says it like this in 1 Timothy 6:17: *"Tell those who have the riches of this world not to be arrogant and not to place their confidence in anything as uncertain as riches. Instead, they should place their confidence in God."***

**We can be like Daniel and surrender our lives and put our faith in Jesus. Then we will be like servants and let God be the king, instead of trying to rule our lives and others. This is the writing on our "wall."**

Have kids use a colored marker to color over the invisible cross they drew. It will now show up in a different color.

Have kids practice saying the take home point and/or the Bible verse.

***\*If you think you're high and mighty,  
The writing's on the wall.  
Honor God and worship him,  
Or surely you will fall!***

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for sending Jesus to take our place. We can never measure up or weigh enough by just doing more good things than bad things. Instead, we need to accept that we are sinners and then believe that Jesus died for us so that our sins are forgiven. Ask for humility to not trust in our own abilities but to have confidence in God to save us.

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

# Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

## Aliens In a Strange Land

*This series covers the captivity in Babylon. Daniel and his friends were aliens in this strange land. Kids will discover that the word “alien” does not only mean “visitor from outer space,” but any person who is a foreigner from another land. Therefore, anyone who has faith in Christ is a citizen of heaven and an alien in this world. As a result, he or she doesn’t fit in with a sinful world. Many of the standards of this world are contrary to God’s kingdom.*

*Kids need to know that if they live their lives for Christ, they will receive pressure from the world to compromise their faith. But because they are citizens of God’s kingdom and foreigners, or aliens, to the ways of this world, they can trust God no matter what.*

*The metaphor of an alien will be used throughout the series. To help kids visualize this, construct an alien transporter machine from a cardboard refrigerator box or wall dividers. Use light, sound and spaceship decor. A child selected from the audience each week will appear from the machine and give an “alien’s perspective” on the lesson. Option: see picture.*



*The Bible Event will use the video “Animated Stories from the Bible: Daniel” produced by Animated Bible Stories II, 1993. Sections of this video will be shown in the first four lessons. If you choose not to use the video, it would be simple to introduce a costumed character to tell the story.*

*After the video is shown for each lesson, Gordy who is the alienologist and the expert of aliens, wants to understand how these aliens think. The Large Group presenter will bring up a child to go through the alien machine and come out to answer questions relevant to the topic of that day which describe us as foreigners in a sinful world in which we don’t fit. The Large Group presenter will help the child through some application questions that lead us to the Take Home Point for each lesson.*

*Supplies: two sheets of paper to tape to Gordy’s hands, alien transporter machine*

# **Gordy Sees the Handwriting on the Wall**

## **Puppet Presentation**

**Presenter: Kids, should we call out Gordy?**

*Kids begin chanting "Gordy, Gordy, Gordy." Gordy enters with two papers taped to each hand.*

Gordy: Look at this. Check it out. Here is my list of good stuff.

**Presenter: Let me see, Gordy. What is it?**

Gordy: All the good stuff I've done.

**Presenter: Like what?**

Gordy: Well, I made my bed.

**Presenter: Great.**

Gordy: And, I made my sister's bed.

**Presenter: Really great.**

Gordy: After I hid some worms down in the sheets.

**Presenter: Gordy, you hid worms. That's terrible!**

Gordy: Well, no. They were gummy worms. That's another nice thing I did. I forgot to write that down.

**Presenter: Gordy, I'm afraid I can't count that as nice. It's a mark against you.**

Gordy: Okay. I still have enough good things to get in.

**Presenter: In where?**

Gordy: Heaven.

**Presenter: Gordy, you can't get to heaven by doing good things.**

Gordy: I know. You need Jesus to die on the cross, but then you've got to do more good things than bad things.

**Presenter:** What are you saying, Gordy? Are you saying that to get to heaven, you trust Jesus to get you part of the way, but then you do good things to earn the rest of the way?

Gordy: Sort of.

**Presenter:** Gordy, Jesus is all we need for heaven. He died to take the punishment of our sin. He is alive so he is with us right now. The reason we do good things is not so that we earn heaven, but because it is a way we can serve God and serve others.

Gordy: Oh well, in that case, I better go get those gummy worms.

**Presenter:** Good idea, Gordy.

Gordy: And replace them with real worms.

**Presenter:** Gordy.

Gordy: I'm just kidding.

**Presenter:** Gordy, why did you do that, anyway?

Gordy: Oh, I wanted to play an alien trick on my sister. I wanted her to think aliens were crawling in her bed.

**Presenter:** Gordy, I don't think that's a good idea. It certainly is not nice to your sister.

Gordy: But you know how I love to play aliens.

**Presenter:** Well, Gordy, today we will discover more about aliens in the Bible.

Gordy: What alien?

**Presenter:** Daniel.

Gordy: Oh, yeah. We learned about him last week.

**Presenter:** Right. He is a foreigner in Babylon and now Belshazzar has become king.

Gordy: Is he a good king or a bad king?

**Presenter:** Well, you will have to find out, but you will discover that there was handwriting on the wall that told him the truth. Let's watch this video.

Gordy: And then can we have an alien?

**Presenter:** Right. Then we will have one of the children be an “alien” and answer some questions.

## **Video**

Show the *Animated Stories from the Bible: Daniel*, produced by Nest Family Entertainment. Show the movie from the beginning of Belshazzar’s party until where it ends with the city burning. Quit right before the phrase, “I hate Daniel.”

## **Gordy Sees the Handwriting on the Wall** Puppet Conclusion

**Presenter:** So, Gordy, what did you think about the writing on the wall?

Gordy: Well, it was sure weird writing.

**Presenter:** Do you remember what it said?

Gordy: Something about being weighed and found lacking.

**Presenter:** Do you know what that means, Gordy?

Gordy: It means he needs to eat more gummy worms and gain weight?

**Presenter:** No, Gordy. I’m going to call up one of the “alien” children to help explain this Bible Event.

Gordy: What a minute. These are just kids.

**Presenter:** Remember last week we talked about being citizens of God’s Kingdom? We are like foreigners in this world because heaven is our home.

Gordy: Oh, yeah. I get it. That’s how we can be called aliens.

**Presenter:** Yes. We are aliens to the bad things of this world. So, let me call one of the aliens up and bring him through the transporter machine.

Call up a volunteer. Have him/her enter the back of the Alien Transporter machine and walk through it to the front. Have any bells, whistles, horns, lights operating so as to give a sense of change.

**Presenter:** Welcome, alien. What is your name? *(Gives name.)* Today, we learned about Daniel as an alien living in Babylon. He read the handwriting on the wall which said:

***“This is what has been written: Numbered, Numbered, Weighed, and Divided.***

***“This is its meaning: Numbered – God has numbered the days of your kingdom and will bring it to an end. Weighed – you have been weighed on a scale and found to be too light. Divided – your kingdom will be divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”***  
(Daniel 5:25-28)

**Can you help me understand what that meant? What do you think the king did that was so bad? *(Worshiped gods made of gold and silver.)***

**Gordy:** Boy, is that ever dumb. I don't get why those people worshiped stupid stuff that's not even alive.

**Presenter:** Well, Gordy, even today people worship gold and silver.

**Gordy:** You mean they make idols and bow down to them?

**Presenter:** In some places they do, but I think it is more common in our country that people treat money like it is a god.

**Gordy:** How do they do that?

**Presenter:** Well, let's ask our alien volunteer. *(To the volunteer.)* Who or what do you think is more powerful and better able to take care of you, God or a big pile of money? *(God.)*

**Right. But when people trust more in their money to make their life happy, then they are not trusting or being faithful to God. They are forgetting that God made them and God wants them to trust him above all.**

**One last question for our expert alien. God told the king in the handwriting on the wall that he had been weighed and was found to be lacking. God said he would give Belshazzar's kingdom away. If God wrote something on your wall at home, what do you think he would say to you? *(Most kids will answer that they don't know.)***

**Gordy:** Don't hide gummy bears in my sister's bed.

**Presenter:** Well, perhaps. I think there is something more important. He might write:

***\*If you think you're high and mighty,  
The writing's on the wall.  
Honor God and worship him,  
Or surely you will fall!***

**That is important for all of us. The Bible says it like this in 1 Timothy 6:17: *"Tell those who have the riches of this world not to be arrogant and not to place their confidence in anything as uncertain as riches. Instead, they should place their confidence in God."***

**How can you be humble before God? Or how can we be confident in what God has done for us? *(Trust that Jesus is our Savior and died for the punishment of our sins.)***

**Yes, we trust Jesus as our Savior and can be sure he has forgiven our sins. Gordy, would you pray for us?**

Gordy: Dear Jesus, thank you very much for giving your life for us, especially when sometimes we do as many bad things as good things. But we don't want to serve any other god, especially a stupid one made out of gold or silver. Help us be humble in our own abilities but confident in God's ability to save us. Help us to trust Jesus and to serve you always. In Jesus' name, Amen.