



Date: _____
Series: Daniel
Summer Year 1, Lesson 11

Words on the Wall

Take Home Point: *Listen to God's word.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. Leaders say the phrase and the children repeat it.

Bible Event: Daniel 5

We will help children know:

- God wrote words on the wall.
- God talks to us in the Bible.
- We need to listen to what God says to us.




We will help children feel:

- Loved and special because God's word is for them.
- Excited to learn how God talks to them through the Bible.

We will help children do:

- Watch a puppet presentation that introduces the Bible Event.
- Participate in acting out the Bible Event.
- Eat alphabet cookies.
- Stamp letters on their craft.
- Write in the sand.
- Take home a copy of *God Talk at Home* to reinforce the leaning of today's Take Home Point: ***Listen to God's word.**

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Warm-Up (10 minutes)	3	Transition Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> toys of your choice
Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes) 	3	Puppet Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judy puppet children's picture Bible
Small Group Application (10 minutes—each activity) 	6 9 10 11	Activity 1: Bible Event Activity 2: Snack Activity 3: Craft Activity 4: Game	<i>Activity 1: Bible Event</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> fancy goblet Children's picture Bible <i>Activity 2: Snack</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> alphabet cookies (if not available, use letter cereal) napkins, cups and water <i>Activity 3: Craft</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> alphabet cookie cutters copies of Appendix A, one per child stamp pads washable markers or crayons wet wipes for hands Option: foam letters and liquid paints <i>Activity 4: Game</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> trays or shoebox lids rice, flour or sugar
Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes) 	12	Review the Take Home Point Pray Sing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> music of your choice craft example from Activity 3

Warm-Up (Prior to class and first 10 minutes of the session.)

Young children this age need a time to get acquainted with the new surroundings as they enter the classroom. Provide a variety of calm activities and toys, such as blocks, play centers and simple puzzles. These activities create an environment that helps young children let go of Mom and Dad. If necessary, Mom and Dad may play with them for a few minutes and then leave.

Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes)



Purpose: The opening puppet presentation will be an attention grabber that helps gather the children. This is not an extensive presentation but a quick overview introducing the Bible Event and the Take Home Point. Early childhood humor is also used. Bubba often says something silly about elephants. Judy says something silly about pink ponies. Let the children enjoy the "joke" but use it to call attention to the Bible Event.

Puppet Presentation:

Judy Listens to God's Word

Supplies: Judy puppet, small children's picture Bible

Presenter: Boys and girls, shall we call for Judy?

Kids call for Judy. **Judy...Judy...Judy.**

Presenter: Hi, Judy. What do you have there?

Judy: It's my picture Bible. I just got it.

Presenter: It's beautiful. Do you know what is in the Bible?

Judy: Are there pictures of pink ponies? They're my favorite.

Presenter: Well, there are pretty pictures, but not of pink ponies. Instead, the Bible is filled with God's word.

Judy: What is God's word?

Presenter: It's what God says to us. It helps us get to know him.

Judy: What does God say?

Presenter: The Bible tells us about real people who used to live a long time ago and how God talked to them. Some of them listened and some didn't.

Judy: I want to listen.

Presenter: I'm glad you do. Listen to this Bible Event. Once there was a king who did not love God. He followed other gods.

Judy: What other gods?

Presenter: He followed other gods made from gold or silver.

Judy: Were they pretty as my pink pony?

Presenter: They might have been pretty but they were made of only gold and silver. They were just statues and not the true God.

Judy: What happened?

Presenter: When this king was having a party, and all of his friends were there, he said, "Everybody praise the gods of gold and silver."

Judy: Did they do it?

Presenter: Yes, but then an amazing thing happened. A hand appeared and started writing on the wall.

Judy: What did it write?

Presenter: God's word. But none of the people could read it.

Judy: Couldn't they read?

Presenter: They couldn't read those words. So, they got a very wise man that followed God. His name was Daniel. Daniel read the words to the king. Do you want to know what God's words were that he wrote on the wall?

Judy: Yes.

Presenter: God said, "My rules say not to serve any other gods. King, you have been very bad so you will no longer be king."

Judy: Then what happened?

Presenter: That very night, what God said came true. Soon there was a new king. Do you know what this teaches us?

Judy: What?

Presenter: **Listen to God's word.* That is why I am so happy you brought your own Bible. The Bible has God's words in it.

Kids, let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. *Listen to God's word. Listen to God's word.

Good job, everyone. Judy, will you help me teach the new song to the boys and girls?

Judy: Yes, I love to sing.

Song: to the tune of *Farmer in the Dell*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

LIS-ten TO God's WORD.
LIS-ten TO God's WORD.
LIS-ten, LIS-ten, LIS-ten, LIS-ten.
LIS-ten TO God's WORD.

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
Help us listen Help us listen.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Small Group Application (30-40 minutes)



Purpose: Young children learn best by repetition. Review the Bible Event and practice the Take Home Point as you rotate through the activities.

The shepherd to child ratio for two-year-olds should be one to five or fewer. Divide into groups of five with one shepherd or have a slightly larger group with two shepherds. Groups rotate from activity to activity. Another option, especially for larger churches, is to provide a leader at each activity table with a shepherd leading a group of ten. The ratio will be maintained at one to five.

Activity 1: Bible Event

Part One: Read the Bible Event

This story is not generally found in children's picture Bibles.

Part Two: Act Out the Bible Event

Supplies: children's picture Bible

Hold up a children's picture Bible.

This is the Bible. It is God's word. Let's act out what it says in the Bible. When you see me do the actions, you do them too.

King Belshazzar does not follow God.

- **Belshazzar was a king. He did not love God.** Put both hands on heart.
- **He did not serve God.** Put hands out as if serving something.
- **He did not **listen to God's word*.** Cup your hand behind your ear.
- **Instead, he thought gold and silver were the most important things in the world, not God. King Belshazzar decided to have a big party. He invited other people who did not listen to God. The king decided they should drink out of fancy cups called goblets made from gold. Let's pretend to drink from a goblet.**

The king and his guests drink from special goblets.

- **The king ordered his servants to bring some very special goblets to the party. These goblets were special to God and were not to be used for parties. The king's men stole the goblets from God's house—the temple.**

- When the people at the party drank from the special goblets, they praised gods that were not real. Then the king and his friends did something bad. They said, “We don’t love God. We love gold. Gold is our god.” Raise up the cup.
- “We don’t love God. We love silver. Silver is our god.” Raise up the cup.

God writes on the wall.

- All of a sudden something scary and surprising happened. Show me your surprised face.
- The fingers of a hand appeared! Show me your hand.
- The hand wrote on the wall! The king watched the hand as it wrote. The Bible says he was so scared that his knees knocked together! Let’s all make our legs shake.
- His legs then collapsed! Let’s all fall down.

The king cannot read the words.

- King Belshazzar saw the words on the wall, but he could not read them. He was very confused. Let’s scratch our head like we are confused.
- The words on the wall were special words from God. There is only one man that could read them. It was a man who followed God. His name was Daniel.

The king sends for Daniel.

- The king called for Daniel. Let’s call Daniel, too. *Daniel... Daniel.*
- Daniel came to see the king. The king told Daniel about the words on the wall. The king said that if Daniel could read the words, the king would give him special gifts. Daniel knew that he could read God’s words, but he did not want the special gifts. Daniel said, “No, thank you.” Let’s say, “No, thank you.”

Daniel reads God’s words.

- Daniel read the words on the wall. Daniel told King Belshazzar that God was not happy with him because he did not love and follow God. He did not **listen to God’s word*. Instead, he loved gold and silver. Then Daniel looked at the words on the wall. The words said three things. Let’s count to three. *One...two...three.*
- Daniel read God’s words on the wall: 1. Hold up one finger.
- God does not want King Belshazzar to be king anymore.
- 2. Hold up two fingers.
- King Belshazzar was not doing the right things. He was not listening to God’s word.

- 3. Hold up three fingers.
- God would make someone else king, instead of Belshazzar. King Belshazzar couldn't be king anymore.
- That same night, what Daniel read on the wall came true. King Belshazzar was not the king anymore. Daniel listened to God's word.

We can listen to God's word.

- How do we listen to God's word today? Does God write on the walls with his finger? Shake head no.
- Does God write to us in his special book, the Bible? Nod head yes.
- Let's pretend to open the Bible and read it.
- There we find out all about God and how much he loves us. As we learn more about God, we can love, follow, and listen to God's word.

Part Three: Pray, Sing and Review the Take Home Point

Prayer:

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,

We love you. We love you.

Help us listen Help us listen.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.

Amen. Amen.

Song: to the tune of *Farmer in the Dell*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

LIS-ten TO God's WORD.

LIS-ten TO God's WORD.

LIS-ten, LIS-ten, LIS-ten, LIS-ten.

LIS-ten TO God's WORD.

Take Home Point:

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me:

*Listen to God's word. Listen to God's word.

Activity 2: Snack

Supplies: alphabet cookies, napkins cups and water

Option: If alphabet cookies are unavailable, use alphabet cereal

BE AWARE OF ANY FOOD ALLERGIES BEFORE YOU GIVE THE CHILDREN ANY FOOD TO EAT.

Boys and girls, today we are learning how God sent a hand to write words and letters on the wall. Our snack today will be letters from the alphabet.

Before we eat our snack, let's fold our hands and say a prayer.

Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
Help us listen Help us listen.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Pass out a napkin and cup of water to each child.

See this cookie (*or cereal*)? It is a letter of the alphabet. The alphabet has all the letters needed to write words. Some of you have learned the alphabet song at home. Sing a few bars of "ABCDEFGH." These are letters that make up the words that you can see in the Bible. The Bible is God's word. We can listen to God's word and find out how much he loves us.

Pass out snack to children.

Go ahead and eat your snack. Remember to say *please* if you want more.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. *Listen to God's word. Listen to God's word.

Song: to the tune of *Farmer in the Dell*
Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

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LIS-ten TO God's WORD.
LISten, LISten, LISten, LISten.
LIS-ten TO God's WORD.

Activity 3: Craft

Supplies:

- *Alphabet cookie cutters*
- *stamp pads*
- *copies of Appendix A, one per child*
- *crayons or washable markers*
- *wet wipes for cleaning hands*

Boys and girls, today we are going to stamp some letters on our papers. Put them on the stamp pad first then press them on your paper.

If you have enough help, you can help the children spell B-i-b-l-e with the cookie cutters instead of random stamping. Some children might resist so much “help” and not be patient enough to wait for the right letters. If so, let them do it their own way.

When you have enough letters on your paper, you can color the letters. This reminds us what happened in today’s Bible Event. God’s finger wrote on King Belshazzar’s wall. God told the king to stop doing bad things. We can listen to God today by reading the Bible. He tells us how much he loves us so that we don’t want to do bad things like King Belshazzar.

Option:

Supplies: foam letters, liquid paints

Foam letters can be dipped in liquid paint and stamped on paper. Use the wet wipes to clean children’s hands after the activity.

Let’s practice the Take Home Point. I’ll say it first and you repeat after me. *Listen to God’s word. Listen to God’s word.

Song: to the tune of *Farmer in the Dell*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

**LIS-ten TO God’s WORD.
LIS-ten TO God’s WORD.
LISten, LISten, LISten, LISten.
LIS-ten TO God’s WORD.**

Let’s pray now. Fold your hands and repeat after me:

**Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
Help us listen Help us listen.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus’ name. In Jesus’ name.
Amen. Amen.**

Activity 4: Learning Game

Supplies: trays with sides or shoebox lids, one for every two children; rice, flour or sugar;

Boys and girls, today we have been learning how God made a hand write on the wall. Most people write on paper. We are going to write in sugar (or rice or flour). You can draw letters or pictures or fun shapes.

Have two children at a time draw in the sugar. It will work best if you have enough trays so the children can all do the activity at the same time.

You can draw letters or pictures of fun shapes with your finger. That reminds you how God wrote on King's Belshazzar's wall. God writes to us today in his special book, the Bible. When we read the Bible, we **listen to God's word.*

Pour enough sugar into tray or lid to cover the bottom.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. **Listen to God's word. Listen to God's word.*

Song: to the tune of *Farmer in the Dell*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

**LIS-ten TO God's WORD.
LIS-ten TO God's WORD.
LISten, LISten, LISten, LISten.
LIS-ten TO God's WORD.**

Let's pray now. Fold your hands and repeat after me:

**Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
Help us listen Help us listen.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.**

Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes)



Lesson Review:

Presenter shows the craft and compliments the children for doing a wonderful job. He/she reviews the Take Home Point: ***Listen to God's word.**

Lesson Prayer:

Let's fold our hands and pray. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
Help us listen Help us listen.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Lesson Song:

Song: to the tune of *Farmer in the Dell*
Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

LIS-ten TO God's WORD.
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LISten, LISten, LISten, LISten.
LIS-ten TO God's WORD.

Lead them in three songs on a tape or CD until parents begin arriving. Let parents know that they are welcome to join in. Dismiss by handing out the God Talk at Home.

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LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

