

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Watch the video summary of the **November 2, 2014 Sermon** (3.5 minutes), "The Handwriting is on the Wall, Part 2." Please read the sermon passage (Daniel 5:13-31) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline:

NATIONS DECLINE WHEN . . .

1. **Essential voices are marginalized** (13-16)
  - a. Daniel has been sidelined. People have not sought his counsel for years. He is all but forgotten.
  - b. The gods and goddesses of this world will not produce the results the world desires.
  - c. Daniel was eventually sought out as a "last resort" Christian voice. But he was sought out.
2. **Scriptural truths are suppressed** (17-23)
  - a. Belshazzar would not humble himself before God, so God is about to humble him.
  - b. God sometimes takes things away to graciously humble us, giving us ears to hear the truth.
3. **Critical warnings are disregarded** (24-31)
  - a. Message delivered: "Your kingdom is over. You will die. The next kingdom (Cyrus) is here."
  - b. You are not required to bring repentance to unbelievers, but to deliver God's message (with love).

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Though Daniel had been hired as a national counselor, no one had sought or listened to his counsel for many years. He had been sidelined--silenced. Yet he remained faithful to God, he did not grow bitter and he was ready to give counsel when they came and asked him. In what ways have you marginalized good Bible counsel in your life?
2. Based on #1, above: In what ways has your counsel been marginalized? While no one is asking for your input, are you remaining faithful? Gracious? Ready? Discuss.
3. Based on #2, above: God graciously humbled one bad king (Nebuchadnezzar) and he responded. But his son, Belshazzar, would not be humbled. It was not Daniel's job to humble either king, but to deliver messages from God. It's not your job to humble anyone, but to deliver messages from God. In his sovereignty, some will respond and others will not. Discuss.
4. Based on #3, above: Our nation is on the decline according to the three principles above. What is our role in the nation as it marginalizes Christian voices, suppresses God's truth and disregards Bible warnings? (Remain faithful, don't become bitter, remain ready to deliver the gospel.)
5. Based on #3, above: Are you actively sharing your faith in Christ Jesus with a friend, coworker or neighbor right now? Tell us about those discussions.