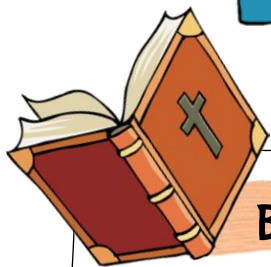


Together @ Home



Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.

Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of the writing on the wall.

You can find it in your Bible in:

Daniel 5

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of the writing on the wall. Help us remember to be humble, to know that you are God and that all we have is only because of you.

Help us to be like Daniel who listened to your voice and lived in obedience to you.

Where we see others making mistakes help us to be kind and forgiving like you are to us. Help those living their lives without you to come to know you as King.

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

Why did a message appear on the wall for King Belshazzar?

Belshazzar was the son of King Nebuchadnezzar. King Nebuchadnezzar had lots of ups and downs – like the time he built a giant statue of himself and asked everybody to pray to it (Daniel 3) – even though God showed King Nebuchadnezzar how amazing He is by rescuing Shadrach Meshach and Abednego from the fire the King still thought he was the most important person. God forced the King to lose his position and be humbled by living in the wilderness.

Belshazzar had seen everything that his father had done, but he had not learned from his father's mistakes. He still thought he was more important than God – he even took the special cups from God's temple to use for himself. The message told Belshazzar that God was going to humble him too by taking his kingdom away from him.

A question for children to ask adults

Can you think of a time when you learned a valuable lesson from the example of somebody else?

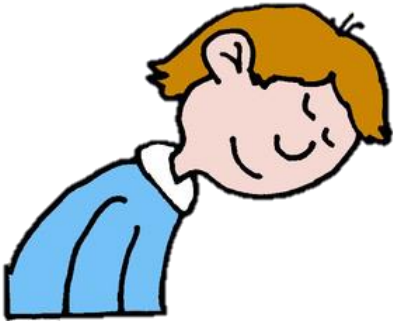
Family Activity 1

Today's story is all about humility, that means not thinking of yourself as the most important. King Belshazzar and his father King Nebuchadnezzar both thought they were more important than God, but God calls us to put Him first and live to serve God and others.

Hold a backwards race – the aim is to move from one side of the room to the other – but rather than going as fast you can and trying to reach the other side first, you must go as slowly as you can and try to come last. You must keep moving all the time though – if you stop you are disqualified!

How does this race help us think about what it means to be humble?

A verse to remember



Micah 6 v 8

"The Lord has told you, human, what is good;
he has told you what he wants from you:
to do what is right to other people,
love being kind to others,
and live humbly, obeying your God."

Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate the verse on a piece of paper or card together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week. How can we live more humbly, putting obedience to God and service to others first in our life?

Family Activity 2

You will need: Paper and a pencil/pen

One person has the paper and pen, a second person stands behind them. (You might find it is easiest to do this at a table or with the paper stuck to the wall).

The second person uses their finger to draw a simple picture on the first persons back. The First person must feel the drawing on their back and try to draw it on the paper. Is the drawing good enough to see what it is?



Active Prayer

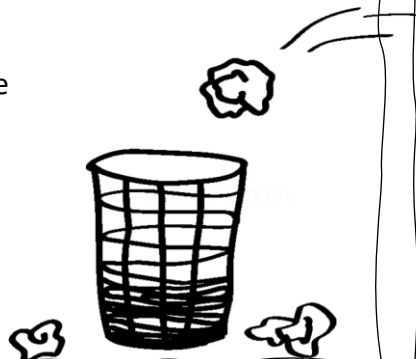
You will need: Paper, Pens, a bin/bucket

We serve a God who loves and forgives us, even though we mess up and make mistakes.

Write or draw any mistakes you have made that you would like to say sorry to God for.

Crumple up the paper into a ball as you remember together that God forgives all our mistakes.

Throw the ball into the bin and say a thank you to God that he removes all our sin from us and does not remember our mistakes.



Helping Older Children

Humility is a difficult concept; it can be tough to be humble because it often means admitting to our failings and mistakes. We can demonstrate humility by acknowledging our own failings and by being open and honest about the times when we struggle to do the right thing.

It is healthy for our children to know that just like them we can struggle to prioritise God or to think of the needs of others and not just ourselves.

You can remind your children that we serve a God of forgiveness, that being humble means admitting when we make a mistake and then working to correct it. We all make mistakes but unlike the King's in the story we can choose to learn from them and change our behaviour because of them.

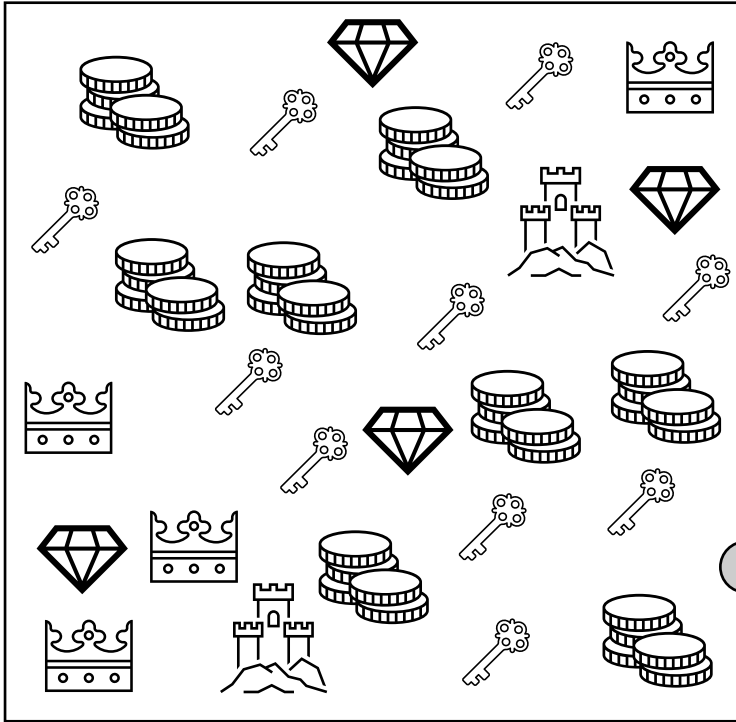
A colouring page you could print and colour together

"AND WHAT
DOES THE LORD
require of
YOU? TO
ACT JUSTLY
and to Love
mercy and to WALK
humbly WITH YOUR
GOD."

MICAH 6:8

PUZZLE SHEET

God divided the Kingdom of King Belshazzar in half. Can you draw a straight line through this square so that the same items appear in each half? It might help if you colour the pictures first and count how many there are of each item.



In the story the word 'tekell' meant that the King's behaviour had been weighed on scales and there was something missing.

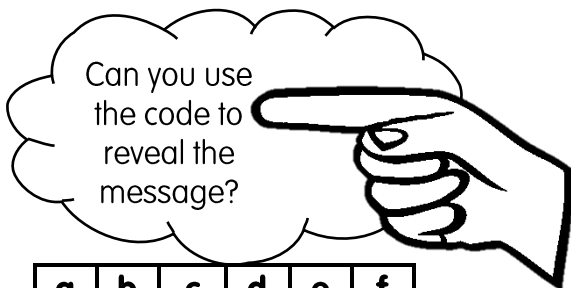
Can you work out what number is missing from these scales to make them balanced?

12 7 $\triangle = \underline{\quad}$

9 \circ 4 $\circ = \underline{\quad}$

14 8 $\triangle = \underline{\quad}$

7 \circ 2 $\circ = \underline{\quad}$



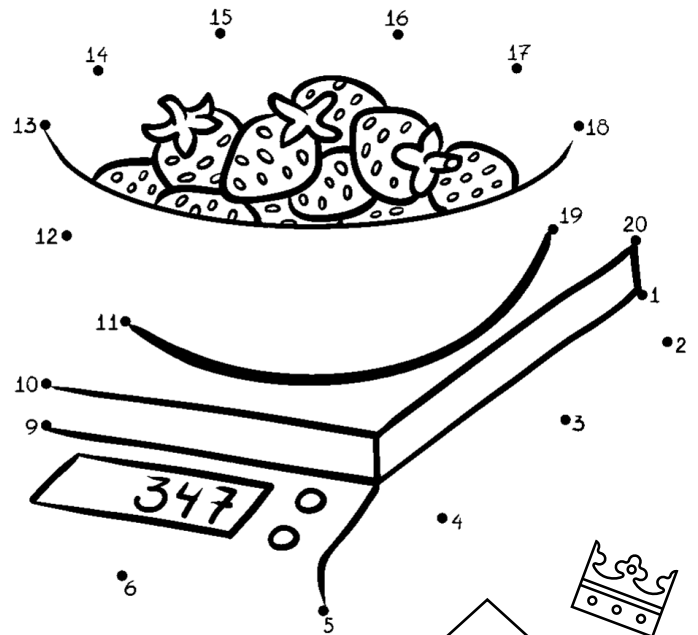
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Join the dots in order to complete the picture.

