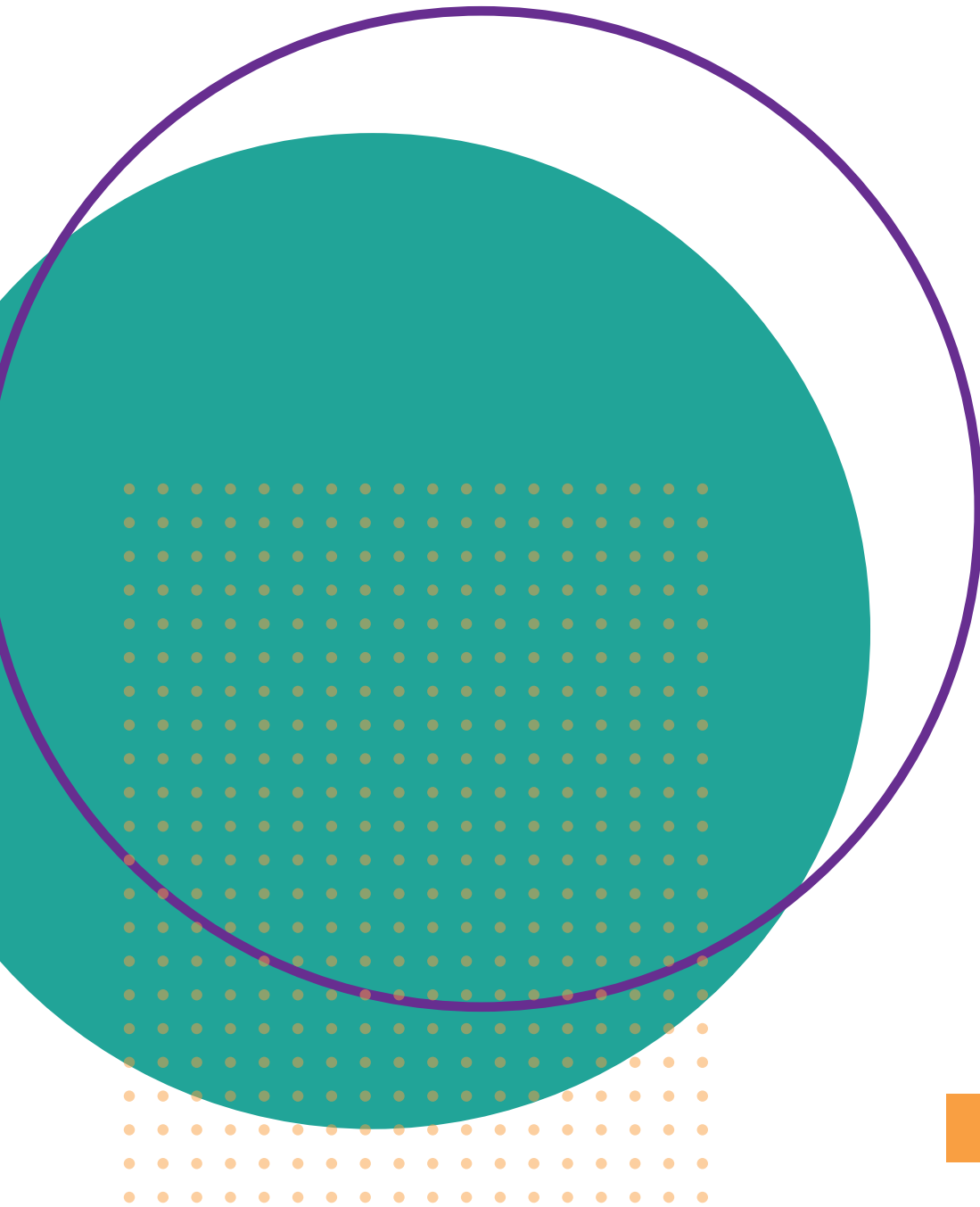
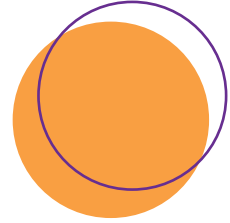


# FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

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WEEK 5 FAITHFUL EXILES



## **FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP IS KIND OF A BIG DEAL.**

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 instructs parents to make God front and centre in home life; talking with children, impressing upon them and working with them at all times of the day and night. Put simply a parent's primary ministry is to raise their children to be disciples of Jesus.

For some of you it's already a regular part of the rhythm of your family's week; keep up the good work. Some of you will feel like you could be doing better; keep on trying, practice builds confidence and competence. And some of you feel overwhelmed and don't know where to start; that's ok, your church family is here to help.

Our prayer is that this Family Discipleship Guide will give you some helpful tools in developing a weekly rhythm of discipleship practices to help you and your family to grow together in love and service of God.



# **THE FAMILIES**

We've broken the guide in into 5 parts each with its own specific way of engaging the bible passage that week:

**REFLECT** encourages family members to reflect on the bible passage and what it means to them.

**REACT** engages your emotions and helps bringing those reactions before God.

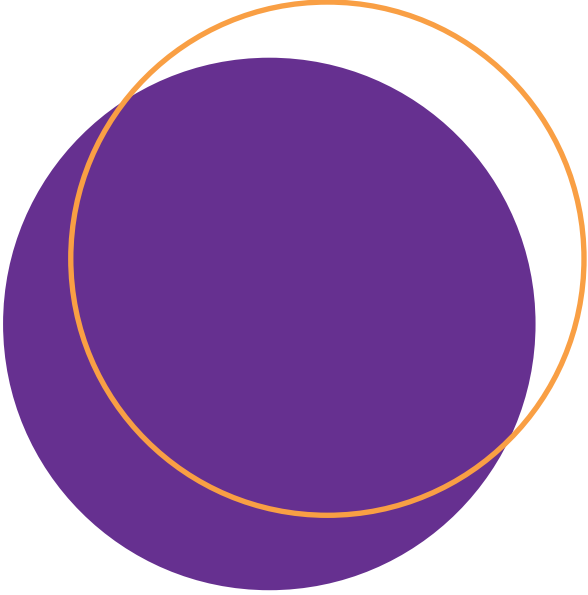
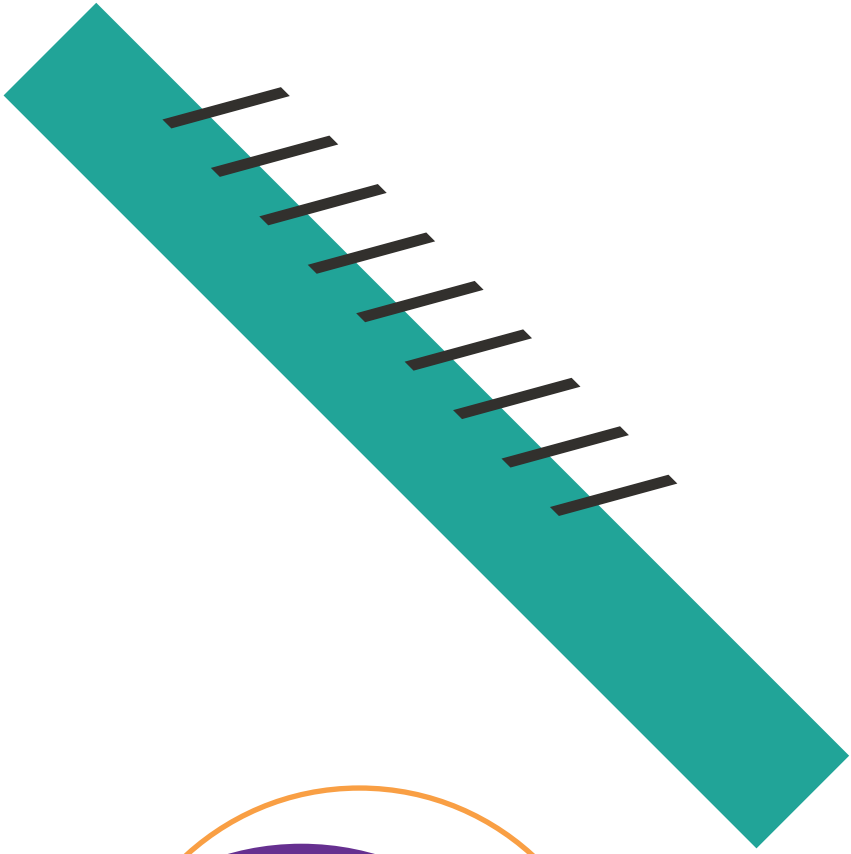
**RELATE** encourages families to share honestly, and listen deeply to how one another are growing as disciples.

**RESPOND** helps families to work out real and practical ways they can respond to God in light of the weekly bible passage.

**REVIEW** encourages families to review the bible passage for the week and engage with it in a different way.

You might like to use these as 5 separate daily devotions, OR you might like to group some of the sections together to make a couple of family devotional times but leave yourself room to use other resources you've found elsewhere. Remember these are a collection of tools, not rules, for family discipleship.

Don't forget to show us how your family are discipling one another by sharing your photos and reflections on our social media pages with the hashtag #WeAreLivingChurch.



# WEEK 5 QUICK VIEW

## QUICK VIEW

In this week's story we see King Belshazzar punished for his pride and contempt for God. Instead of being thankful to God for all he has, he uses things taken from God's temple to praise false "gods" of wood and stone. In the end, he loses everything God had given him.

### DATE OF SERMON

23.05.2021

### BIBLE READING

Daniel 5

### BIG IDEA

In Belshazzar's lavish feasting we see his pride and utter contempt for the true God – he delights in God's gifts, giving himself over to fleeting pleasures, but refuses to honour God as the giver of those gifts. For Belshazzar, the writing is on the wall, so God's irreversible judgment falls on him.

### KIDS BIG IDEA

King Belshazzar lived a proud life of selfish greed without God, so God took his kingdom away to show who is really in control

### KIDS APPLICATION

Resist the temptation of pride, and instead show thankfulness and respect to the God who gives all good things.

### KEY VERSE

But you did not honour the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways. Daniel 5:23

### KEY SONGS

God Sits in the Highest Place - Colin Buchanan

### MOMENTS

God Sits in the Highest Place – Let's remember today that even if things don't go the way we like, God knows about it and does what's best. Ask God to help us remember this and to trust Him.

Remember this week we are thinking about using the gifts God has given us to serve others and to serve God. Let's pray while we're in the car that God will help us to see ways to serve others at school, today, and especially to be kind to others.

Hey kids, how did you go at using your gifts to help others at school today?

### PRAYER

Dear God,

Please help us not to be boastful. Help us to remember that all our good gifts have come from you, and help us to use our gifts to help others and to serve you.

Amen.

# REFLECT

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**As parents, encourage your family to personally reflect on the bible passage, and what it means for them. Try to guide this so it lands close to the big idea.**

## FAMILIES

Read together and act out the story of Daniel 5. (You will probably need to go through the whole chapter at least twice.)

Ask questions about the story, e.g.

V22: What should Belshazzar have learnt from last week's story in Ch4?

V 23 What do you think was wrong with using the goblets from God's temple?

V 23 Who were the people praising?

V 23 What can't the "gods" made of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood and stone do?

What was the difference between King Nebuchadnezzar in last week's story (Daniel 4:34) and Belshazzar in this week's story? (Daniel 5:22-23)

Look for more questions you can ask, discuss and apply as you work through the story.

For a fun interlude, read verses 5-6 and see who's the best in your family at looking frightened, and who's best at knee knocking. How would you react today if you saw a hand writing on a wall?

## PRAY

Dear God,

help us not to be proud but to be thankful for what you have given us and for how you help us. When we are proud, help us to remember that everything we have comes from you.

Amen.

# REACT

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**As parents, encourage your family to see how they are reacting emotionally to the Bible passage. Engage emotionally and bring it before God.**

## FAMILIES

Get out something (or things) that are special or precious to you. (Grandma's special crockery, or something the adults really treasure.)

What are some family rules that apply to these special things (e.g. "Kids DON'T TOUCH!").

Why do you have those rules?

What are some things you CAN do with this special thing and what are some things you should NEVER do with it?

Suppose Mum & Dad are not around and you get this special thing out. You play with it and end up mis-using it and breaking it. What happens next?? How would you feel? -- And how would your parents feel?

What would they do?

In Daniel 5, we see Belshazzar using special utensils from God's temple to praise "gods" made of silver, gold, wood and stone. They can't see or hear or understand, but he praised them and did not honour the true God who holds our life in His hands!

What happened to Belshazzar, and how is this different from what happened to Nebuchadnezzar in last week's story? (Daniel 4)

# RELATE

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**As parents, encourage your family to share honestly, and listen deeply to how one another are growing as disciples.**

**Parents it will be important for you to model honesty and vulnerability as you answer these questions, so your kids know they can do the same. Allow time for everyone to reflect and answer each question openly and honestly. Make sure you listen well to one another, and pray from the heart.**

## FAMILIES

God has given each of us a body and a family to live in. We also have homes and lots of things in our homes that we can enjoy.

But most of all, God has given us personalities, abilities, and much much more. These are all GIFTS from God.

King Belshazzar was rich and powerful. This was God's kindness to him, but Belshazzar didn't recognise God's kindness. Instead, he praised other false "gods" made of wood and stone.

Today we want to make lists of the gifts we all have.

Don't start by making a list of your own gifts - list what you see in the lives of others. Take time as a family to talk to each other about the gifts you see in others, and if possible write up a list for each member of the family. You might want to ask questions like "What makes you think I'm kind?" or "Why do you think I'm good at mathematics? - or a good cook? Keep your list for tomorrow.

Through today and tomorrow try and notice the times you use the gifts God has given you. And notice when others are using their gifts.

## PRAY

Dear God, Thankyou for your kindness and for the gifts you have given us.



# RESPOND

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**As parents, encourage your family to work out real and practical ways they can respond to God in light of the Bible passage. Land the application in this section.**

## EARLY YEARS

Think about the list you made yesterday of the gifts God has given you. How can you use your gifts to be kind to others? What are some ways other people are kind to you?

## PRAY

Dear God,  
Help us to live with you as king of our lives.

## KIDS

Look at the list you made yesterday of the gifts God has given you. Go through your list and think about HOW you use your gifts and WHO you use your gifts for.

Think about ways you can use your gifts for OTHERS, and how you can use your gifts for GOD. Encourage each other to use your gifts in the best ways.

## YOUTH

Look at the list you made yesterday of the gifts God has given you. Go through your list and think about HOW you use your gifts and WHO you use your gifts for.

Think about ways you can use your gifts for OTHERS, and how you can use your gifts for GOD. Encourage each other to use your gifts in the best ways.

Reflect on the writing on the wall. This was a statement of God's judgement on Belshazzar. Compare this with the story of Nebuchadnezzar in chapter 4. Discuss the concept of repentance both for ourselves and others.

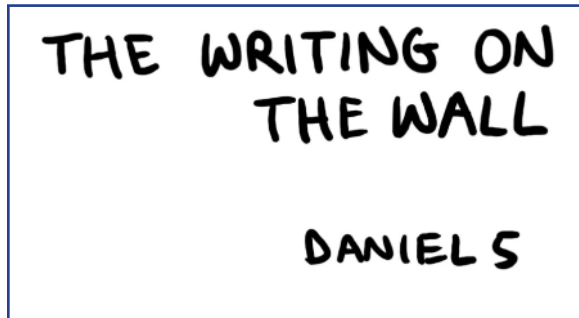
# REVIEW

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As parents, encourage your family to review the Bible passage for the week. This section tries to find a way to engage with the passage in a different way.

## EARLY YEARS / KIDS

The writing on the wall Bible Animation (Daniel 5)



What were some of the things you liked about this story?  
What were some of the things people might not like about this story?  
What important things can you learn from this story?

## YOUTH

Read the story of Joseph in Genesis 41. (vs 1-8, 14-16, 25-32, 41-44)  
Compare this with what we've been hearing in the story of Daniel.

## PRAY

Dear God, Thankyou for all the good gifts you have given us. Help us not to be proud and boastful, but help us to give thanks to you and to use our gifts to help others and to serve you.

