

## Small Group Questions

### Part 4: When God Crashes Your Party

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#### Read

Daniel 5; Luke 5:6; and 1 John 3:1

#### Reflect

King Belshazzar, son of Nebuchadnezzar, throws a huge banquet and sends for the gold and silver goblets taken from God's temple. He and his nobles, wives and concubines drink wine from them. It is then the king sees a hand, writing on the wall of his palace. Afraid and unable to read it, he first asks his Babylonian wise men to read it for him. When they can't, he sends for Daniel. Daniel doesn't want the rewards the king offers, but he explains the warning in the writing on the wall. Belshazzar doesn't heed it. He doesn't take the time to examine his own heart. Might God be showing you something he really wants you to see?

Pastor Adam Martin synthesizes several ways the Book of Daniel shows the clash of culture and faith:

1. Culture's greatest goal is to redefine our identity.
  - a. King Nebuchadnezzar had taken away Daniel's Hebrew name and given him a Babylonian one. What labels are you allowing the enemy to put on you?
  - b. What are those labels keeping you from doing or trying?
2. Culture's greatest test is to entice us to bow down to its gods.
  - a. Describe a time when you thought you knew exactly what would make your life better—and you gave it importance above what it deserved, but once you received or achieved it, it didn't satisfy or actually caused problems?
  - b. Are you settling for mediocre?
3. Culture's greatest tool is distraction.
  - a. Do you tend to equate personal worth with activity and achievement? Explain.
  - b. Would you say you are a busy person?
    - i. Describe a time when you were so busy that you lost focus of what was most important?
  - c. What are your top priorities? What do you need to simplify, to focus on those priorities?

What should writing on the wall say to me?

1. Am I moving too fast?
  - a. Are you giving yourself time enough and seeking God's guidance before making decisions?
2. Am I listening to the right people?
  - a. How would you describe the people you spend the most time with daily? Are they supportive and encouraging? What is your typical environment like?
  - b. Where do you go to be refreshed?
3. Do I need to make some new decisions in my life?
  - a. How willing are you to examine your own heart?
  - b. Is the direction you want to go in your life, the direction you are going right now?
  - c. Think of a time when you felt and heeded a warning from God. What happened as a result?

#### Respond

What is your next step? Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you and hold you accountable in this?