

Small Group Study Guide



A “Three P” Person Sept 15, 2019

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we pray that none of us would make the mistake of allowing what we've accomplished and what we've been given to ever take over our thoughts or our emotions. That we would never ever even dream of treating someone disrespectfully because of something we have. Father, I pray that we would be faithful stewards, and that we would live every single day under the canopy of a sovereign God. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE:

Daniel 5:17-28

17 Then Daniel answered the king, “You may keep your gifts for yourself and give your rewards to someone else. Nevertheless, I will read the writing for the king and tell him what it means. 18 “Your Majesty, the Most High God gave your father Nebuchadnezzar sovereignty and greatness and glory and splendor..... 20 But when his heart became arrogant and hardened with pride, he was deposed from his royal throne and stripped of his glory....until he acknowledged that the Most High God is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and sets over them anyone he wishes. 22 “But you, Belshazzar, his son, have not humbled yourself, though you knew all this. 23 Instead, you have set yourself up against the Lord of heaven. You had the goblets from his temple brought to you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines drank wine from them. You praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or understand. But you did not honor the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways. 24 Therefore he sent the hand that wrote the inscription. 25 “This is the inscription that was written: mene, mene, tekel, parsin 26 “Here is what these words mean: Mene: God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end. 27 Tekel: You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting. 28 Peres: Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”

INTRODUCTION

Maybe you're a "Three P" person—you have power, prestige, and possessions. You have influence. You are envied. People take you seriously because of what you've accomplished, what you look like, or who you're married to. There's nothing wrong with being a "Three P" person. But when it comes to pride, "Three P" people face a unique challenge.

When you see someone with less—less sophistication, intelligence, education, money, or influence— you're tempted to think more highly of yourself. Pause for a moment and tell your pride, "The Most High is sovereign over all the kingdoms." Remind your pride that everything God has given you is a stewardship. It's temporary. You are accountable for how you use it.

QUESTIONS

- 1) In what ways do you see power, prestige, and possessions abused in our culture? In what ways does that shape our cultural priorities?
- 2) Talk about a time when you've seen someone treat his or her personal influence as a temporary stewardship from God. How was that person unique? How did other people react to him or her?
- 3) Read Daniel 5:26 on page 1. What does it mean to you that God has numbered the days of your power, prestige, and possessions? To what extent does that principle currently influence the daily decisions you make?
- 4) What is one area in which you're regularly tempted to look down on others— education, possessions, physical appearance, influence, experience, intelligence? What is the cost of giving in to your pride?
- 5) Think about the areas of your life where you have the most influence, power, and prestige. What would it look like for you to treat those areas like a temporary stewardship from God for which you are accountable?

FINAL APPLICATION

What is one thing you can do this week to remind your pride that you are just a steward of God's blessings?