

June 1, 1997

4's, 5's & K

The Most High God Has the Best Plan!

Daniel 4 & 5

3DAN38PK

Materials I Need:

Memory Work:

The Prophet - *Daniel*

The Principle - *The Most High God has the best plan for all people.*

The People - *Israelites living in exile around Babylon*

God's Attribute - *God is the Most High Ruler.*

Aim Questions:

1. Do you remember the names of our prophet and his three friends? (Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego)
2. What are some of the things that King Nebuchadnezzar's son, King Belshazzar, did that were wrong? (He didn't listen to his father. He partied, using drinking glasses that had been set apart for God. He praised the gods of gold and silver instead of the Most High God.)
3. What happened during the party that scared King Belshazzar? (A hand wrote words on the wall.)
4. What was the message of the handwriting? (Babylon would be captured by the Medes and Persians and King Belshazzar would be killed.)
5. What happened to Daniel because God gave him the meaning of the handwriting? (Daniel was clothed in purple, a gold chain was placed around his neck and he was made the third highest ruler in the Babylonian kingdom.)
6. What happened to Babylon? (Darius, the Mede, took over the Babylonian kingdom that very night.)
7. What can we do that is right and different from what King Belshazzar did? (We can listen to our parents and do what God says is right. We can thank God for things He has given us to enjoy.)

 Hook:

Paper Bag Puppets Craft Center: (3DAN35ECGF4 Review Picture) Make Daniel hand puppets from paper bags. Help the children glue xerox copies of Daniel's face to small lunch sacks. Order supplies from the Children's Department like yarn, construction paper strips, craft eyes, and scraps of material; decorate the puppets in class. As the children finish, have the class practice saying the names of the prophet and his friends. Review the past events of Daniel's life we have studied so far.

Daniel Review Bag: Bring out the bag with objects that can be used to review Daniel. Chapter 1 reminds us of the vegetables that Daniel and his friends ate because they wanted to obey God. Chapter 2 and the pillow reminds us of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Chapter 3 had something to do with fire. In today's lesson we will learn about a hand that wrote words with a pen. "Let's write some words with our pen or pencil and see if we can read the words. In today's lesson, Daniel will have to figure out a message that is written down. No one else can figure it out." Have fun pretending to read the children's words on their pages.



Dot to Dot Message: (3DAN38ECGF4) Let the children connect the dots to see what the Bible Adventure will be about today. There will be a “message” from God. God is so amazing. He uses so many different ways to tell His prophecies.



Beautiful Things Center: Bring in costume jewelry, a pretty picture, a beautiful piece of china, and an exciting toy. Who is the creator of these beautiful things? People made these beautiful things. Who should get the praise for their beauty? (The people who made them) Do these pretty things make us happy when we see and use them? God is the true Creator of people, trees and flowers. We want to praise Him for the most beautiful things, the things only He can make. In the story today, a new king wanted to use some beautiful things to impress his friends, but these beautiful glasses belonged to God. It made God angry when the King took them. What do you think happened to the king?



Favorite Stories: Read the children one of your favorite short story books. Ask them for the name of their favorite story that their parents tell them. Do their parents ever tell them stories about Jesus? “What is your favorite story you have learned this year in the prophets? The most important stories we learn are from the Bible because they are all true and they are God’s words. We want to remember the things that our parents tell us. We want to love the Most High God more than anything else. Today we’re going to learn about a king who forgot the stories his father had told him about God.”



“Get Ready for a Party” Center: Pretend to get ready for a feast party. Wash the glasses, plates and silverware. Sing, “This is the way we wash the plates, wash the plates, wash the plates. This is the way we wash the plates, for our special party.” Continue with glasses and spoons, knives and forks. When everything is shiny clean, begin cooking the food. “This is the way we cook the meat,” etc. Cut a special gold placemat for each child to use during our feast party. This can be a large piece of construction paper that has gold foil glued around the edges. Make silver goblets by wrapping tin foil around styrofoam glasses. Get excited about your special party.



Book:

Presentation Ideas -



Beautiful Cup: Bring in a goblet or glass with gold foil wrapped over it. “This might look like the cup King Belshazzar had taken from the temple of Jerusalem to impress his friends.”



Use 3DAN38ECGF1, 3DAN38ECGF2, & 3DAN38ECGF3 pictures as you tell the Bible Adventure.



(3DAN38ECGF1) Show a beautifully colored 3DAN38ECGF1 picture, describing the shiny gold goblets and the beautiful purple robe the king wore. This was a very big feast and the king wanted everything to be beautiful. When you come to the part about the hand, tape a picture of a hand to the wall.

Bible Adventure -

Who remembers the names of Daniel’s friends? Who remembers why Daniel and his friends grew strong and wise? They obeyed God even when no one was watching. (*Show the picture of King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream.*) Daniel told King Nebuchadnezzar about his dream. Who is the only one who knows the secrets that someone is thinking and dreaming? Only the Most High God can see the hidden things in the dark and knows what people are thinking. After Daniel told King Nebuchadnezzar his dream, the king said, “Your God is the Most High God. He knows what will happen in the future.” (*Show the picture of Sadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace.*) What did King Nebuchadnezzar say about the Most High God after Daniel’s friends were kept safe in the fire? He said, “Your God is the most powerful of all the gods.” (*Sing “The Most High God.”*)

Many things happened to King Nebuchadnezzar that made him believe that the Most High God knows everything and has the best plan for everyone. He told his son named Belshazzar about Daniel’s God. When Belshazzar grew up, he didn’t listen to his father and forgot about the Most High God. He made wrong choices to love idols and beautiful things rather than the one true God. He loved parties and beautiful women. He liked doing what he wanted to do most of all. God had given Belshazzar a parent

who respected God and thanked Him. God wanted Belshazzar to do the same. God has given you parents to care for you and help you know what is best for you as they study God's Word. God wants you to listen to your parents.

What is going to happen to Belshazzar since he decided to do what he wanted rather than what God wanted? He did become king after his father, but he forgot about God and he forgot about the prophet Daniel who had helped his father know God.

Doing just what he wanted to do one night, King Belshazzar gave a great banquet in his palace for a thousand of the men who worked for him. Can you imagine how much food they needed to feed a thousand hungry men?! It was a big party with lots of fancy dishes and food. The king even ordered his servants to bring some of the beautiful gold and silver goblets (drinking glasses) that his father had taken out of the Israelite temple in Jerusalem. These special glasses were for use in the temple only. They had been "set apart" for use in the temple.

King Belshazzar wanted the wives brought in and said, "Let's have the best party ever!" They did party and it got pretty loud with all the people talking and laughing. Soon the people were getting drunk on the wine they were drinking. Then you could hear them lifting the gold and silver glasses in the air and praising them as if they were gods who could see and hear. They were thinking the gold and silver and fancy foods and everything else was making them have a good time and be happy. Do you think the glasses, wine and food could give them joy? Did it give King Belshazzar joy? No! God is the only one who gives us true joy. Too bad for the king! He gave up love for God and true joy for the love of gold and silver.

What things might we praise and think can make us happy? Do we think TVs, games, bikes, clothes or money can make us happy? Some people do. They need to love the one true God and not things. That was what happened to Belshazzar and we don't want it to happen to us.

Was the Most High God, who knows what is best for everyone, pleased with King Belshazzar? I know He wasn't! Listen to what happened next. Suddenly on the wall in the party room, a hand appeared. It was writing words on the wall. The king was astounded! He couldn't take his eyes off that wall. His face became white as a sheet. His knees started shaking. He was scared! In a shaky voice, he said, "What is going on? Bring in the wise men and astrologers (men who studied the stars). Bring them quickly! We must find out what these words say." If the king had listened to his father, would he have asked these astrologers to come help him? No! King Nebuchadnezzar had learned that the Most High God was the only one with the answers. You can avoid making mistakes, too, if you listen to your parents and God's Word.

The king was getting very upset because as the men came, all they said was, "I can't read that. I can't tell you what it means." The queen heard all the noise and came to see what was happening. When she heard about the writing on the wall and that none of the men could read it, she said, "Your father, King Nebuchadnezzar, knew an Israelite named Daniel who could tell him what he was dreaming. This man Daniel has the spirit of the holy gods in him. He has wisdom like that of the gods. Call for Daniel and he will tell you what the writing means." Immediately the king called in a servant to go find Daniel.

Daniel stood before the king with a big smile on his face. The king said, "I have heard that the spirit of the gods is in you and you have great wisdom. If you can read this writing and tell me what it means, I will clothe you in purple, put a gold chain around your neck and make you the third highest ruler in my kingdom." Daniel respectfully said to the king, "You can keep your gifts for yourself or give them to someone else, but I will tell you what the words mean. The message is from the Most High God who gave your father, King Nebuchadnezzar, great power and strength to rule Babylon. Your father didn't always look to the Most High God, but when he did, God helped him rule the great Babylonian kingdom and people honored him as a mighty ruler. Your father knew who was helping him rule over the people of his kingdom. He praised the Most High King of heaven for having power over every nation and every kingdom. He knew that God knows what is best."

Daniel told King Belshazzar that his bad choice of not listening to his father had hurt God's name. It hurt God's name when he praised the gods of silver and gold. He said, "Now, King Belshazzar, I will tell you the meaning of the writing on the wall. God says your reign as king is over. Your life is done. Enemy armies (the Medes and Persians) will take your kingdom away from you."

The king, eyes looking to the floor, looked ashamed as he realized that the message was true and was from the Most High God who knows what is best. He gave Daniel the rich purple clothes and put a gold chain around his neck, as he said he would. The king respected Daniel and said, "Daniel, I want you to be the third highest ruler in the Babylonian kingdom." That very night, Babylon was captured and King Belshazzar was killed by Darius the Mede. Darius then became the next ruler of Babylon.

Daniel praised and thanked God and we should praise and thank God also. He is the one who decides the leader of every nation. God controls the people of all kingdoms. He is the all powerful Most High Ruler who has the best plan for us. Let's thank God every day for who He is. Let's look to the all powerful, loving God rather than to things around us to make us happy. We will find out more about Daniel next week.

Prayer: Most High God, You see everything and know everything. You are wise and powerful. Your plan is the best plan for me. I want to praise and thank You all my life rather than desiring beautiful or fun things. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Look:



Spaghetti "Writing" Center: Prepare spaghetti noodles to use as handwriting on the wall. Drop a 16-ounce package of noodles into a large pot of boiling water. Add a tablespoon of cooking oil to keep the spaghetti from sticking together. Cook until the pasta is soft but not mushy. Drain and rinse with cold water so that it will be cool enough to handle. The class can now put their noodles onto black sheets of construction paper. (The noodles will eventually dry and stick to the paper.) Ask the children to write "letters" using the soft noodles. Show some of the letters the fingers on the hand in the Bible Adventure were writing (Daniel 5:25). The children may copy and say some of these letters. "What must the hand have looked like to the king? God Most High showed the king what He wanted to say by writing on the wall. Today we learn what God says by reading the Bible and listening to our parents who love Him."



Writing With Pancake Batter Snack Center: Pancake batter makes perfect "ink" when used on a hot griddle. Use any pancake batter thinned down a little with water or milk. Bring a pancake griddle to class or arrange to use the kitchen at the church. The teacher can take one or two children at a time to cook their snacks. Give small cups of batter to the children to drizzle onto the griddle. Show the children Daniel 5:25 written out. See if a letter can be duplicated by the children. Cook until bubbly on one side. Turn and cook the other side of the cake. Ask the children to tell you one thing they remember from the story. Clarify details and check the accuracy of the facts. Then have fun eating the words!



Chalk Messages: Take the children outside with some pretty chalk and draw on the asphalt or sidewalk. Use chalk that washes off with the rain. Let the children draw whatever they like. Teacher could write out "GOD" or use letters from the Daniel 5:25 message. Ask the children if they know what this word says. Talk about how God was giving a message to King Belshazzar in writing.



Bible Pictionary: Tape a large piece of white paper to the wall. Tell the children that you are going to be the hand that draws a "message." Draw a familiar Bible object (Bible, hand, sheep) with a black marker until the children can decipher your "message."



Happy Things: (3DAN38ECGF7) Give each child a GF7 picture with the children on it. Have the children find pictures of things that make them happy. Paste these pictures along with a Bible sticker around the child on the paper. Have the children draw an "X" over the pictures of things that don't keep us happy for long. Draw circles around the things that bring joy forever. Remind the children that King Belshazzar thought that beautiful cups and nice parties could make him happy.



Hands on the Wall: (3DAN38ECGF5) Using the GF5 sheet, have each child trace his hand on the blank space and color the letters on the wall. Talk about what God was telling King Belshazzar with the writing on the wall.



Acting Out Ways to Please Mom & Dad: Divide children into groups of three with a teacher helping each group. They pick a paper out of a basket that has something for them to act out that is

a good thing to do to please their parents. Possible ideas: Clean your room, pick up your clothes, put away your toys, clear the table, take out the garbage, share a toy, listen to someone read the Bible, pray, call a sick friend. Each group acts out one of the above situations and the others guess what they are doing that would please their parents. Discuss that King Belshazzar did not listen to his father about God and many bad things happened because of it.

Writing on the Wall: (3DAN38ECGF4) If you didn't use this picture for the Hook time, have the children connect the numbers on their picture, saying the numbers together. Ask them what was formed from connecting the numbers (a pointing finger). What is the finger pointing at? Have the children shape their hand into a pointing finger. Have them color the picture.

Snack Time: Set the table for our feast party by laying our placemats and silver "goblets" on the table. Pour water from a fancy pitcher because gold and silver are so beautiful. We love to look at pretty things. As the children are eating their snack, ask the children, "Who makes silver and gold? God makes them in the ground. Do we like looking at them? Shall we thank God for being powerful and making beautiful things?" Say a thank-you prayer at the table. Talk about other things only God can make.

Praise the Lord Song Game: Bring in a piece of purple cloth. Explain that purple was a very important color when Daniel was alive and only people who were very, very important could wear purple. Tell the children that you are going to play a game, each child getting a turn being Daniel and wearing the purple cloth. Simply drape it around a child's shoulders and attach it with a clothes pin. To play the game, pick a Daniel and dress him in the cloth. Each Daniel gets to choose which of the following verses the children will act out. The following song is to the tune of "Clementine."

(First Verse)

Clap your hands, clap your hands,
Clap your hands, and praise the Lord.
Clap your hands, clap your hands,
Clap your hands, and praise the Lord.

(Other verses) jump up high, bend down low, turn around, hop on one foot, shake your body, nod your head.

Songs:

You Are God Most High (Tune of "Do Lord")

Chorus:

G G7
You Lord, oh You Lord, oh You are God Most High
C G
You Lord, oh You Lord, oh You are God Most High
B7 Em Am
You Lord, oh You Lord, oh You are God Most High
G D7 G

Your plan is the best!

(Second Verse)

Daniel listened to his parents; Belshazzar did not. (repeat 3x)

God's plan is the best.

(Third Verse)

Daniel followed God's commandments; God showed him the way, (repeat 3x)

And God kept him safe.

(Fourth Verse)

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego wouldn't bow to idols, (repeat 3x)

And God kept them safe.

(Fifth Verse)

I know that God has a plan and I'll follow His way. (repeat 3x)

And He'll keep me safe.

The Most High God (Tune: "The Old Gray Mare")

The Most High God has power over everything, power over everything, power over everything.

The Most High God has power over everything. He controls all things.

Other Verses:

The Most High God, He knows (sees) all the hidden things...He can see all things.

The Most High God is with us in the scary place...He can keep us safe.



Praise Him, Praise Him, All Ye Little Children

Thank you, thank you, thank you very much.

God gave me Mom and Dad.

Thank you, thank you, thank you very much.

God gave me all I ever had.



God Is So Good

God is so good, God is so good,

God is so good, He's so good to me.

God gave me mountains,

God gave me trees,

God gave me flowers,

He's so good to me.

(Continue using ideas the children give you.)



Took:



Listening to Dad: (3DAN38ECGF8) Ask the Children's Department to cut GF8 pictures into puzzle pieces. Give each child a puzzle in an envelope. Practice putting the puzzle together in class. Color the puzzle and let the children take their puzzles home to remind them it is very important to listen to their parents. That is what God wants them to do.



Jesus Necklace: Make a Jesus necklace to wear to remember who to praise and thank every day. Give the children a round piece of heavy paper that has a hole punched in the top for yarn. The children can glue macaroni and "O" shaped cereal, pretending to make letters and words. Glue a picture of Daniel and the Lord of Glory on the opposite side to remember who knew what the words on the wall meant.



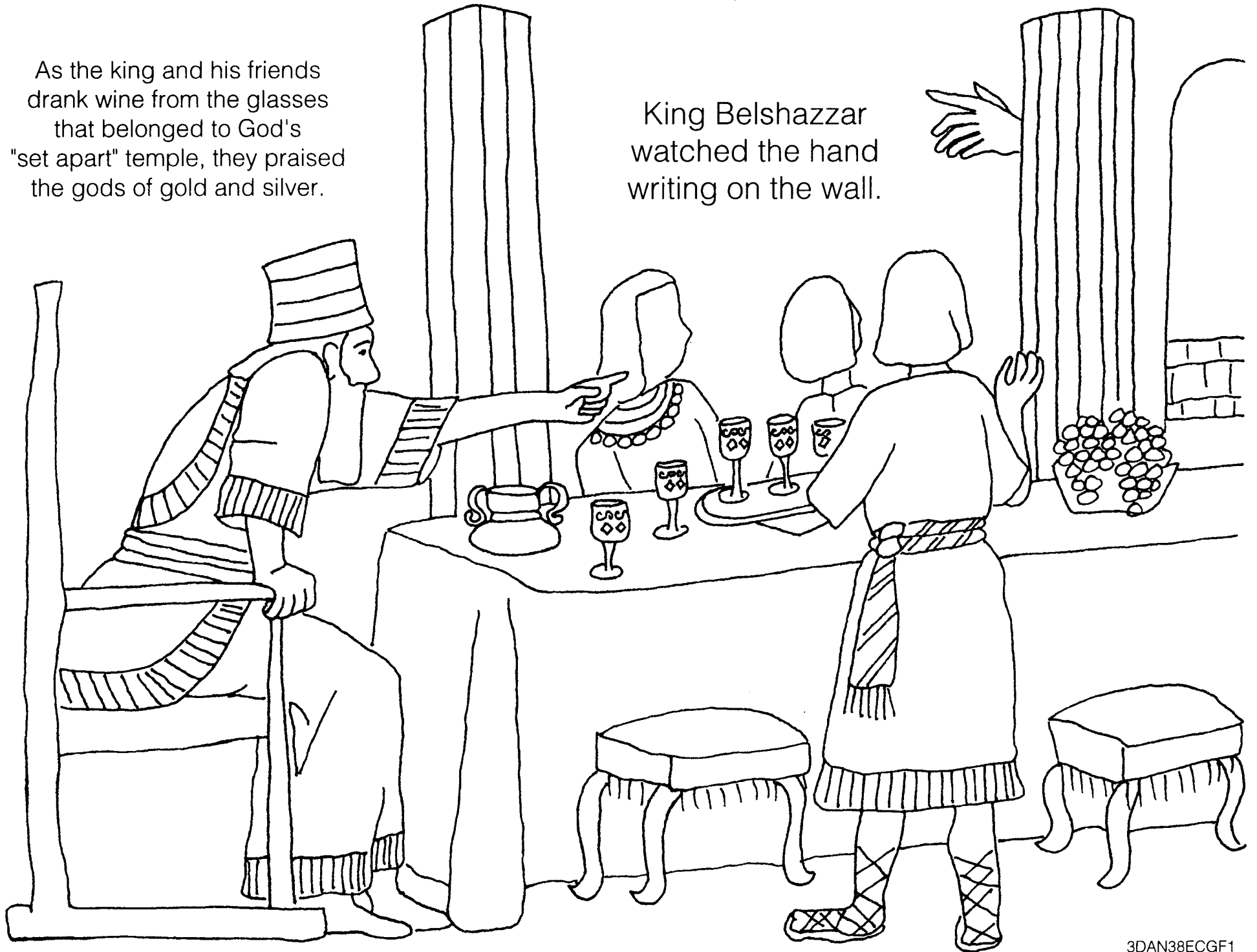
Beautiful Things: (3DAN38ECGF9) Have the children color the picture of a cup gold and a robe purple. Also have sequins, glitters, ribbon and other things that they can attach to either the robe or the cup to really make them beautiful. When the children are done, have each child put a sticker with the word "God" or "Most High God" on their picture to show that God is more powerful and more important than expensive and beautiful things.



Writing With Our Bodies: (3DAN38ECGF6) Tell the children you are going to teach them how to say "I Love You" with their bodies. We can communicate through means other than pencil and paper. After they have learned the sign language for "I love you," have the children practice by telling each other that they love them. See if they would know how to tell God that they love Him (point toward heaven). Let them take home the GF10 sheet to remind them to love God more than anything. We show our love by praising and thanking Him.

As the king and his friends
drank wine from the glasses
that belonged to God's
"set apart" temple, they praised
the gods of gold and silver.

King Belshazzar
watched the hand
writing on the wall.





The queen said,
"Call for Daniel.
He will tell you
what the
writing means."

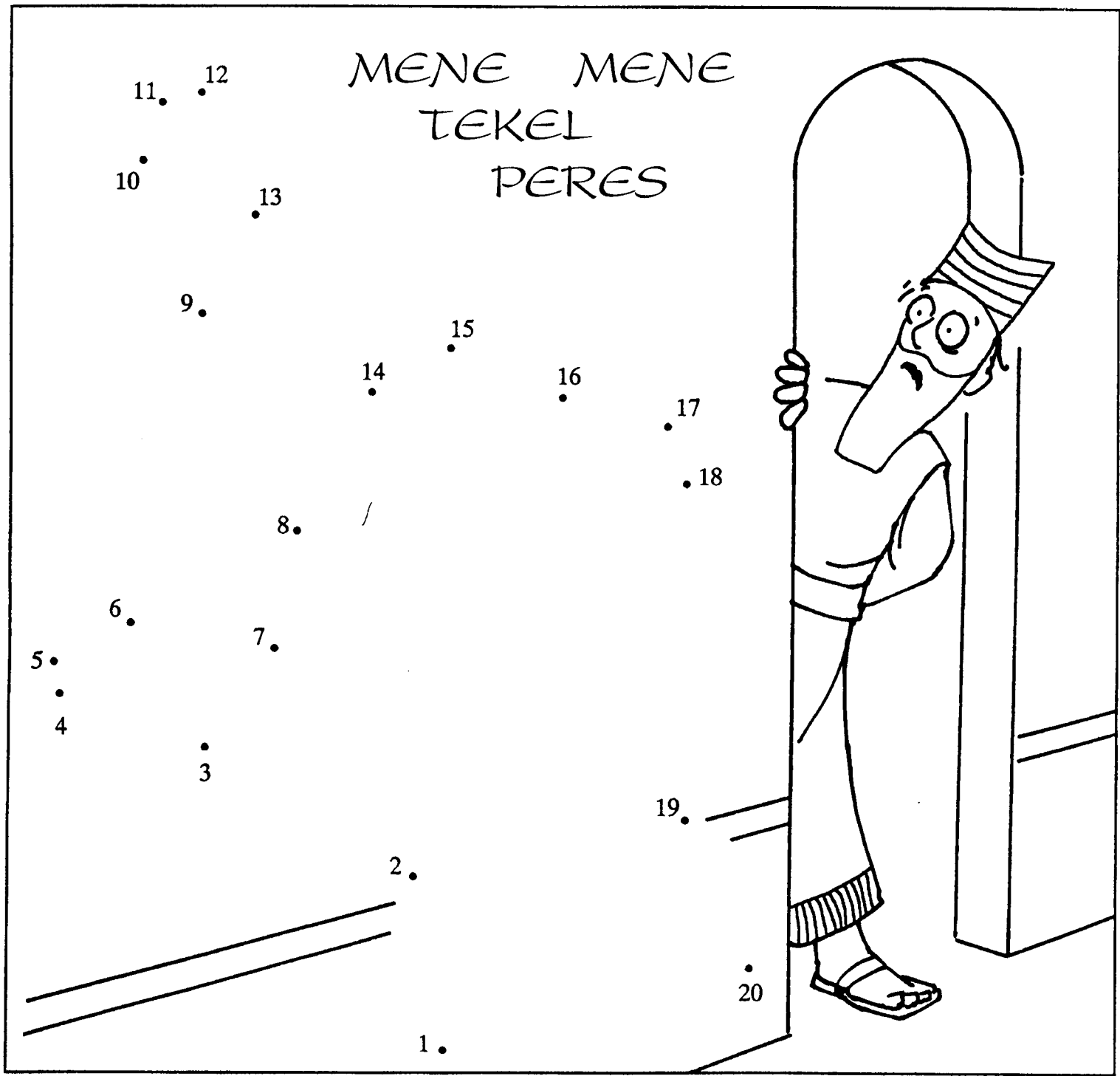


None of the astrologers
could tell King Belshazzar
what the words meant.



King Belshazzar, you dishonored God when you praised the gods of gold and silver. The words on the wall say that your reign as king is over. Your kingdom will be given to the Medes and Persians.

King Belshazzar made Daniel the third highest ruler in Babylon. He gave him purple clothes and a gold chain.



King Belshazzar did not listen to his father, King Nebuchadnezzar, who honored the Most High God. Instead, he praised the gods of gold and silver as he drank wine from the temple glasses.

Suddenly, a hand wrote words on the wall.

Connect the dots and color the picture.

What did the words mean?

A

B

C

D

Writing With Our Bodies

Just as we can write on paper or on a wall,
We can communicate, or write, with our
BODIES!



LOVE



YOU

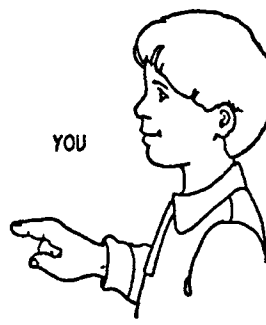
Teach children one of these ways to say "I love you."



I



LOVE



YOU



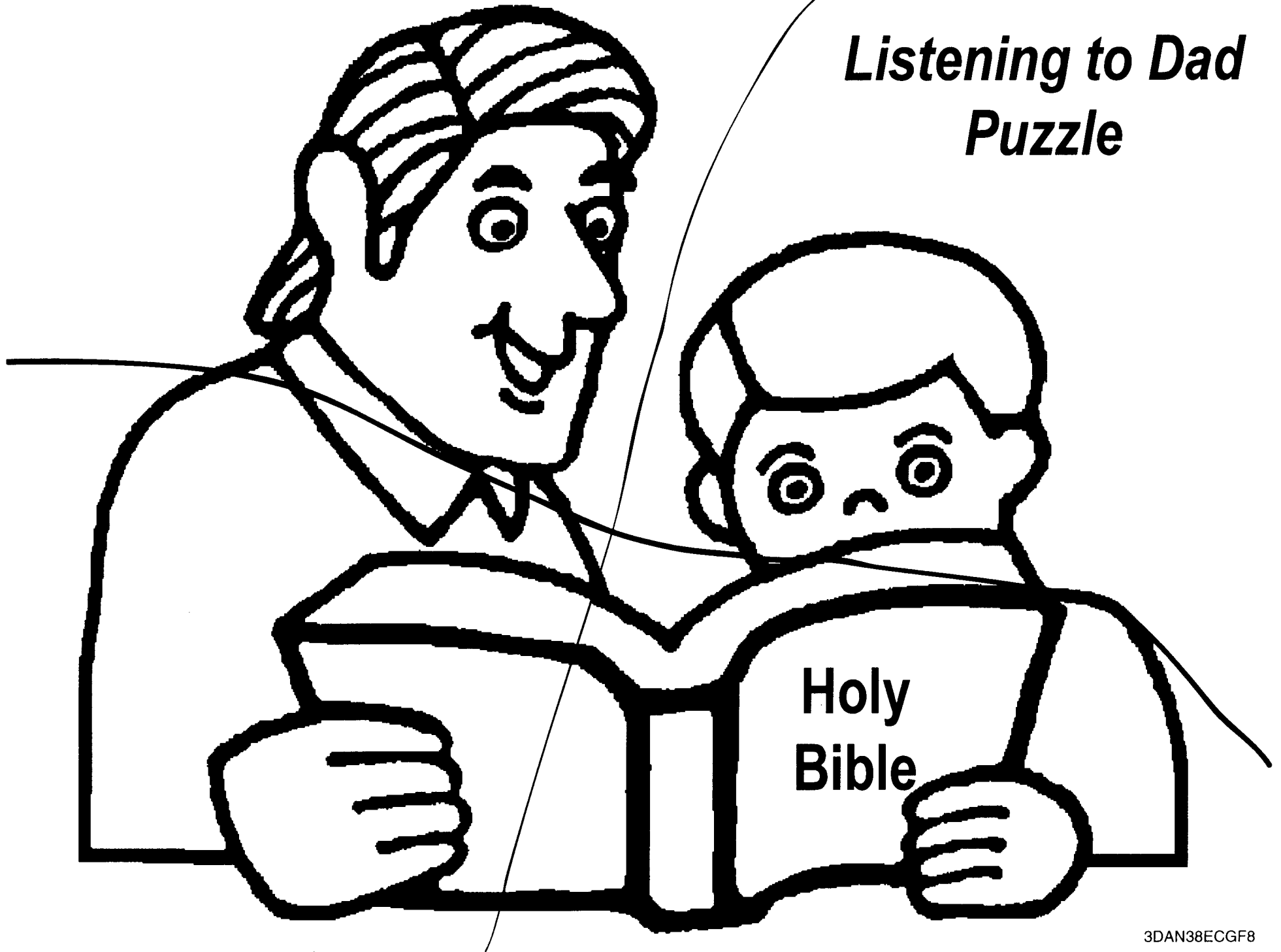
(THE LETTERS
"I," "L" AND "Y"
IN AMERICAN SIGN
LANGUAGE.)

How could you write "*I Love God*" with your hands?

***Do things make me happy? Not for long!
The Most High God gives me joy forever!***



Listening to Dad Puzzle



Beautiful Things

King Nebuchadnezzar loved beautiful things more than he loved God. Daniel was given a beautiful purple, royal robe. Do you think he liked the robe and the gold chain more than he loved God? What do you treasure most, God or your favorite toys?

