middle school

reallife DOWNLOADED

Lesson 11 / November 15, 2026

Handwriting on the Wall

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as STEP 1

Lesson 11 Focus:
Nations that defy God are in danger.

Lesson 11 Bible Basis:
Daniel 5:1-18, 20, 21b-31

Lesson 11 Memory Verse:
"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."
—2 Chronicles 7:14

Your students will watch a video of a Catholic Bishop discussing the persecution of Nigerian Christians and discuss the dangers of ignoring God's commands.

Materials:

- Internet access

➢ **Have any of you visited another country?** (Allow students to share about any other countries where they have lived or visited.)

Sometimes when we grow up in one place, we don't always know what it's like to live in a very different culture. Nigeria is one country that is often in the news for being targeted by terrorist attacks.

➢ **What have you heard about Nigeria?** (Allow your students to share. If they haven't heard anything about Nigeria, you might say something like: **Nigeria is a country in West Africa that is at war with an Islamist terrorist group called Boko Haram. This terrorist organization frequently targets and attacks the Christian population in Nigeria.**)

Let's watch a quick video about a Catholic Bishop in Nigeria discussing the persecution of Christians in Nigeria by Boko Haram.

Play the following video [start at 1:11]:

💔 Over 50,000 Christians Killed in Nigeria... Yet Their Faith Endures
https://www.youtube.com/shorts/CVIP9dAJ3a0

After your class has watched the news video, discuss the following questions together:

➢ **What bothered you the most about seeing this video?** (Answers will vary. Accept all reasonable responses.)

Nigerian Christians face persecution for their beliefs. As we saw in our video, over 200 churches have been destroyed by Boko Haram. Thousands of Catholics and Christians have been killed, thousands more have been displaced, and still others have been kidnapped by this terrorist organization. By meeting as churches and by professing their faith, Christians risk kidnapping and attacks from terrorist groups such as Boko Haram.

The Bible shows us many examples of people groups and nations refusing to obey God's commands. Although a large percentage of the Nigerian population identifies as Christian, the Boko Haram terrorist group is not Christian or obeying God's commands. It is important for leaders to obey the principles of God's Word, even when it's hard. A people group—like Boko Haram—who defies God should be prepared for a lot of trouble.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

middle school

reallife DOWNLOADED

Lesson 11 / November 15, 2026

Handwriting on the Wall

for use as STEP 4

Lesson 11
Focus:
Nations that defy God are in danger.

Lesson 11
Bible Basis:
Daniel 5:1-18, 20, 21b-31

Lesson 11
Memory Verse:
If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." —2 Chronicles 7:14

Materials:
- Pens/pencils
- Index cards

If your class is meeting online, invite students to bring supplies with them to class.

It can be difficult to learn what is happening in the world around you—especially when you're young! But even if we can't change everything about government, we can put God's action plan into place over our own lives.

Distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home). **We're going to pretend that you are each the ruler of a country. Choose a name for your country and write it at the top of your index card. Keeping in mind God's commands, we're going to decide the best way to govern this new country.**

➢ **What are three rules that your country should follow? Write them in your index card below the country name.** (Let students figure out some biblical principles that are relevant to their age group and life experience. For example, rules like TREAT OTHER PEOPLE WITH LOVE or PROTECT THOSE WHO ARE WEAK would still make sense for a middle schooler. Have them write out the rules for their country on the card.)

➢ **What things can help people successfully follow the country's rules?** (It's easier to follow these rules by reading the Bible, learning from more experienced elders, praying regularly, spending time with other Christians, learning from past mistakes, going to church, etc.)

➢ **How can we apply this activity to our own lives at home?** (Help students grasp that national obedience starts in the hearts of individual people.)

If you have time, let students share their country names and rules with the entire class. Challenge your students to take home their cards and display them where they can easily be seen.

Ask them to assess how their country measures up each day this week by evaluating whether they lived by the rules they established for their country, and whether or not their actions defied or honored God.

Close in prayer, praying specifically for the wisdom and obedience of government leaders around the world.

(We are not affiliated with and do not endorse any website or any other media listed on these pages. At the time of writing, we carefully review the referenced material and non-referenced web page content. However, due to the nature of the Internet, non-cited content on the website [including pop-ups, links, and ads] changes frequently and is beyond our control. Please review carefully before showing links in the classroom.)