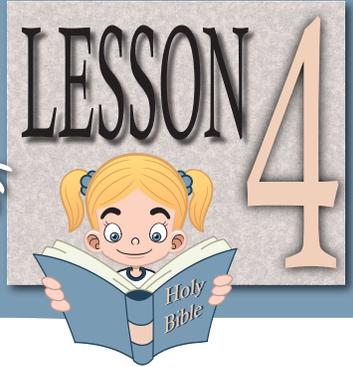


King Hezekiah

Prays for Guidance

2 Kings 18-19



Old Testament 8
Part 1: The Divided Kingdom

SUNDAY MORNING

Old Testament 8 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

2 Kings 18; 19; 2 Chronicles 29:1-32:23; Isaiah 36-39

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid" (2 Chronicles 32:7a).

OLDER CHILDREN: "Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid nor dismayed...for there are more with us than with him" (2 Chronicles 32:7).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["Whisper A Prayer In the Morning"](#)
- ["We Can Talk to God"](#)
- ["Prayer"](#)
- ["God Is So Good"](#)
- ["God Is Listening"](#)
- ["God Takes Care of Me"](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
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- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- Pictures/drawings from any books listed under 3rd-4th Grader Pre-Class Activities/Learning Centers
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces.
- ["Map of the Divided Kingdom"](#) (provided in activity sheets)



PERSONAL APPLICATION:

When I am in trouble, I need to remember that God cares about me and is always ready and willing to listen to me when I talk to Him.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

What man did we learn about last week? Did he obey God? What happened when he forgot to thank God and give God the credit for all the good things that happened to him?

Are any of you afraid of the dark? Are any of you afraid of animals? (Discuss some things that scare children.) In our lesson today, we will learn about a good king, Hezekiah, and how he overcame fear with his faith that God would take care of him. Let's see what made him scared and how God answered his prayers.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review last week's lesson.

Discuss things that frighten children in general and your class in particular. What do you do when you're afraid? Today we're going to talk about a king who was very scared. He did something very wise, and it saved his people. Let's see what he did.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Hezekiah became king of Judah at the age of 25, and unlike his father Ahaz, he was a good king (ca. 724-695 B.C.). He was devoted to God (2 Chronicles 31:20-21) and abolished idol worship and destroyed the many places devoted to idol worship. [The Israelites had even begun to worship the brass serpent that Moses made in the wilderness. Hezekiah destroyed it.] In the first month of his first year as king of Judah, he opened the Temple again and began another restoration process (2 Chronicles 29:3).



HISTORICAL NOTE: During the time Hezekiah was king of Judah, Assyria and Egypt were the most powerful nations in the world. Also during that time, the first Olympiad was held in Greece (776 B.C.), and Rome was founded about 753 B.C.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article "[The Saga of Shebna](#)" by Wayne Jackson on the Apologetics Press Web site for information about an official for Hezekiah discussed in Isaiah.

2. Hezekiah gathered the priests and Levites to find out how many of them were still willing to follow God and not lead the people in idol worship. He prepared his people (the Jews) to celebrate the great festival of Passover, which had not been celebrated to this extent for many, many years (since the days of Solomon—2 Chronicles 30:26). Hezekiah sent royal decrees (messages) to all the people of the Southern Kingdom (Judah) as well as to all the Jews in the Northern Kingdom (Israel). The king sent men all over Judah and Israel to read his decree to

the people. Hezekiah urged the people, “And do not be like your fathers and your brethren, who trespassed against the Lord God of their fathers.... [D]o not be stiff-necked, as your fathers were, but yield yourselves to the Lord...and serve the Lord your God” (2 Chronicles 30:7-8a). Not everyone who heard the king’s message liked it or wanted to obey it (2 Chronicles 30:10-11). [OLDER CHILDREN: Read 2 Chronicles 31:20,21; 32:7,8.]

3. The Assyrians were taking over the Northern Kingdom (Israel) because they gave up worshipping the one true God for idols. Finally, even Samaria, the capital city of the Northern Kingdom, fell to the Assyrians (in 722 B.C.). They forcibly took Jews back to Assyria to be their slaves (in repeated deportations). In the 14th year of Hezekiah’s 22-year reign, the king of Assyria, Sennacherib, invaded the Southern Kingdom (Judah), too. He taunted Hezekiah and told him that “his god” was no better than the idols that the Assyrians worshipped. He also shouted to the people inside the walls of the city, telling them that Hezekiah was not a good leader and telling them of his plans to destroy the city unless they surrendered (2 Chronicles 32:9-16). Then Sennacherib sent a threatening letter to Hezekiah—a letter describing his plans to destroy Jerusalem and kill all its people. Hezekiah was very afraid of the massive army surrounding the city. So he went to the Temple, spread out the letter before God, and prayed earnestly for God’s guidance and help (2 Kings 19:14-19). Hezekiah knew that the Assyrian army was coming, and he did all he could to prepare. But he knew he could not save his people alone. [See 2 Chronicles 32:1-8]
4. The Bible tells us about several prayers of Hezekiah, as well as how God answered his prayers (often through the prophet Isaiah.). [Isaiah 37 is almost identical to 2 Kings 19.] After Hezekiah prayed to God about the letter from Sennacherib, God sent Isaiah to him again, promising Hezekiah that God would save Jerusalem and its people. In fact, Sennacherib would not even be able to enter Jerusalem or fire a single arrow there. God told Hezekiah (through Isaiah) that Sennacherib would return to his own land and be killed by the sword there (2 Kings 19:7).
5. Then one night while the Assyrians were camped outside Jerusalem, God sent His Angel to strike down 185,000 Assyrians! Then mighty King Sennacherib was afraid, and Hezekiah rejoiced! Sennacherib returned to his capital, Nineveh, in disgrace (and was killed by two of his sons thereafter).
6. Hezekiah knew that he needed God’s help to be a good man—and to be a good king. His people and he had no doubt heard about the cruelty of the Assyrians and had reason to be afraid of them. But Hezekiah prayed at every turn and encouraged his people to be strong and not to be overcome by fear. He prayed for guidance, he prayed for his people, and he prayed for strength. When we are having troubled times, when we are afraid, when we don’t know what to do, we can do the same things: pray for guidance and wisdom, pray for those around us (think about others and their needs), and pray for strength.
7. James wrote, “the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” (James 5:16b). He also said that we cannot expect to receive anything from God if we don’t ask Him (James 4:2), but we have to be careful not to ask with the wrong motive/reason (James 4:3). Prayer is our way of talking to God. Although He doesn’t literally speak to us, like He did to people in the Bible, He hears every word we say, speaks to us through His word, and He **will** answer our prayers and help us when we are in trouble.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the articles “[Archaeology and the Old Testament](#)” and “[Hezekiah Bulla: More Evidence for Bible Inspiration](#)” by Kyle Butt on the Apologetics Press Web site for evidence of Bible inspiration from the story of Hezekiah.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- “[King Hezekiah Prays Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Provide each child with a piece of card stock or construction paper and a picture or cutout of “praying” hands. (Patterns for praying hands can be found on-line, including www.biblepuzzles.blogspot.com.) Write the phrase “God hears and answers my prayers” on each paper. Let the children glue their praying hands on the larger sheet of paper. Ask each child about something or someone they pray for and write it on his/her paper.
- Discuss with the children people (and things) for whom we can pray. Cut out magazine pictures to represent those things and people. **Or** use small figures and pictures from old curricula, or diecuts. Write “I Can Pray to God” on a piece of construction paper or card stock. Let the children glue the pictures you provide (or draw their own) on their papers. (“[I Can Pray To God Activity](#)” provided in activity sheets)
- Help the kids make Hezekiah toilet roll dolls. Printable templates and instructions can be found at www.dltk-kids.com.

1st-2nd Graders:

- Write the memory verse on the board, and go over it several times with the class. Then ask them to close their eyes, and erase one word. Then ask the kids to open their eyes and tell you what word is missing. Ask them to close their eyes again and erase one or two more words. Continue this until the entire verse is erased. Each time they open their eyes, they should be able to recognize the word(s) that is/are missing and eventually put the entire verse together.
- Start a prayer journal for the class. Each week write down things/people for which they are praying, and keep track of how God answers their prayers. Encourage the students to keep a prayer journal at home.
- Help the children make their own prayer journals to keep at home: cut pieces of white copy paper in half (enough so each child has several sheets). Cut several sheets of card stock in half; enough so that each child has two pieces, one to be the front cover and one to be the back cover. Let them decorate the front covers of their journals, and help the kids bind their books. (Punch holes through card stock and paper; run yarn through the holes or small rings through the holes.)
- Play Hang Man using names of people in the Bible whose prayers God answered (Hannah, Jonah, Elijah, Noah, Peter, Jesus, Daniel, Sarah, etc.). As children correctly guess the names, have them tell what the person prayed for and how God answered their prayers. At the end of the activity, discuss with the class things all of you have prayed for and how God answered your prayers.
- “[King Hezekiah Prays Word Search](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “[King Hezekiah Prays Fill in the Blank](#)” (provided in activity sheets)

3rd-4th Graders:

- Write the memory verse on the board, and go over it several times with the class. Then ask them to close their eyes, and erase one word. Then ask the kids to open their eyes and tell

you what word is missing. Ask them to close their eyes again and erase one or two more words. Continue this until the entire verse is erased. Each time they open their eyes, they should be able to recognize the word(s) that is/are missing and eventually put the entire verse together.

- Start a prayer journal for the class. Each week write down things/people for which they are praying, and keep track of how God answers their prayers. Encourage the students to keep a prayer journal at home.
- Help the children make their own prayer journals to keep at home: cut pieces of white copy paper in half (enough so each child has several sheets). Cut several sheets of card stock in half; enough so that each child has two pieces, one to be the front cover and one to be the back cover. Let them decorate the front covers of their journals, and help the kids bind their books. (Punch holes through card stock and paper; run yarn through the holes or small rings through the holes.)
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- “[King Hezekiah Prays Word Search](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “[King Hezekiah Prays Fill in the Blank](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read the following:
 - 2 Kings 18-19; 2 Chronicles 29-32; Isaiah 36-39
 - *God Saves Jerusalem*, by Larry Burgdorf, Arch books [DISCLAIMERS: p. 13--angels are not described with wings in the Bible; skip pp. 14-15 (starting with “As God protected...”); skip the note to parents]
 - *Faithful Hezekiah Prays*, by Eric C. Bohnet, Arch books (DISCLAIMER: p. 2—change “And closed” to “Ahaz closed”)
 - *The Great Celebration: A Puzzle Book About Hezekiah*, by Ros Woodman, Christian Focus Publications

SONGS:

“WHISPER A PRAYER IN THE MORNING” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: See Internet)

Whisper a prayer in the morning,
Whisper a prayer at noon.
Whisper a prayer in the evening,
To keep your heart in tune.

God hears our prayers in the morning,
God hears our prayers at noon.
God hears our prayers in the evening,
So keep your heart in tune.

“WE CAN TALK TO GOD” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “Farmer in the Dell”)

We can talk to God,
We should do it every day.
He knows what we’re doing, and,
He listens when we pray.

“BOW YOUR HEAD” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “Taps”)

Bow your head,
Close your eyes,
Send a prayer,
Send a prayer,
Through the skies.
God is list’ning above.
God is love.

“GOD IS SO GOOD” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Traditional

(Tune: See Internet)

God is so good,
God is so good,
God is so good,
He’s so good to me!

He cares for me,
He cares for me,
He cares for me,
He’s so good to me!

I love Him so,
I love Him so,
I love Him so,
He’s so good to me!

I praise His Name,
I praise His Name,
I praise His Name,
He’s so good to me!

“GOD IS LISTENING” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Lora Laycook
(Tune: “Frère Jacques”)

God is listening, God is listening, (put your hand to your ear)
While we pray, while we pray, (put hands together as if to pray)
Bow your head so lightly, (bow your head)
Close your eyes so tightly, (close your eyes)
Let us pray, let us pray.

“GOD TAKES CARE OF ME” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Lora Laycook
(Tune: chorus of “Sunlight, Sunlight”)

Pray, pray; pray, pray,
Let us pray today.
Pray, pray; pray, pray,
As we work and play.
God is up in Heaven, so very good is He,
He will ever love and take good care of me.

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

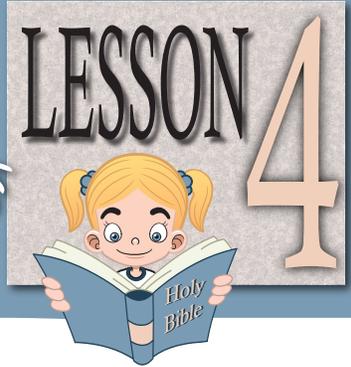
*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



King Hezekiah

Prays for Guidance

2 Kings 18-19



Old Testament 8
Part 1: The Divided Kingdom

WEDNESDAY EVENING

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PERSONAL APPLICATION:

When I am in trouble, I need to remember that God cares about me and is always ready and willing to listen to me when I talk to Him.

INTRODUCTION:

Review [O.T. 8 Bible Fact Flash Cards](#) (provided under “O.T. 8 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

Review Sunday’s lesson. (See [O.T. 8 Review Questions](#) for example questions.)

Discuss the power of prayer; review briefly how God answered Hezekiah’s prayer.

Let the children take turns providing clues about someone in the Bible whom God took care of and how He answered their prayers. The first one to raise his/her hand and guess the Bible character’s name correctly will be the next one to give clues. The teacher may want to provide names/clues to be drawn for this activity (e.g., Moses, Noah, Hannah, Sarah, Joseph, Isaac, Elijah, Daniel, Peter, etc.).

OLDER CHILDREN: Talk about enemies that the kids face every day, and ask them to look up scriptures relevant to those problems. For example: FEAR (Deuteronomy 31:6; Hebrews 13:6); PRIDE (Proverbs 18:2; Philippians 2:3); JEALOUSY (Proverbs 27:4; 1 Corinthians 3:3); LAZINESS (Proverbs 12:24; Hebrews 6:12); ANGER (Proverbs 29:22) [idea from ministry-to-children.com/hezekiah-prays-lesson/]

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- See Sunday morning’s lesson.

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