



K-Ist Lesson

Introduction

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. We have already learned what happened to the northern kingdom of Israel. Point to #27 where the Israel path ends on the timeline. The kings of Israel led the people away from the Lord and worshipped idols. God finally sent the enemy Assyrians against them, and the people were taken away from their homes.

Point to the beginning of the Judah path at #24. In our last lesson, we talked about Judah, the southern kingdom.

- Which king of Judah did we learn about? *Joash.*

Refer to Lesson 101 Flip Chart. God protected Joash from his evil grandmother Athaliah, who wanted to rule over Judah. Joash's aunt rescued him and hid him in the temple. Jehoiada, the priest, taught Joash about the Lord. Then Joash became king when he was only seven years old! He was a good king and obeyed God's laws.

- But what happened after Jehoiada died? How did Joash change? *Joash turned from the Lord and worshipped idols.*

After Jehoiada died, Joash listened to people who didn't love God, and they led him to worship false gods and idols. Sadly, Joash turned from the Lord at the end of his life, and now he is remembered for the evil things he did instead of the good.

Today we're going to learn about another king of Judah. But first, I have a letter here, and it's addressed to you! Show students the envelope then read the letter out loud.

- Isn't it nice to receive letters? Raise your hand if you've ever gotten a letter or a card in the mail. *Show of hands.*

Many people like to send emails or text messages, but sending a letter in the mail is still a fun way to let your friends and relatives know that you're thinking about them. In our lesson today, we'll see how someone received a letter, but it wasn't a fun letter at all! Let's find out who sent the letter.

Hezekiah's Obedience

The king of Judah at this time was Hezekiah. Let's see what kind of king he was.

2 Kings 18:3 & 5

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. We're going to look in 2 Kings 18:3. Have the student with the Bible bring it up and turn to the sticky note. Read the verse.

- Did King Hezekiah do what was right or what was wrong? *Right.*

Yes. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. Hezekiah was a good king. He knew God didn't want his people to worship false gods and idols anymore, so he tore down and destroyed the idols and the high places where people were worshipping false gods.

Let's see what else God says about him. Listen to verse 5. Read 2 Kings 18:5.

- Hezekiah trusted in whom? *He trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel.*
- Were there any other kings of Judah as good as Hezekiah? *No. There was none like him among all the kings of Judah.*

Wow! Hezekiah obeyed God his whole life. He trusted God so much that there was no other king like him in Judah.

The Enemy's Threat

It sounds like things were going well for Hezekiah. But remember how the Assyrians captured the northern kingdom of Israel? Well, it wasn't long before they decided they wanted to take over the land of Judah, too!

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. One day, the Assyrian king, Sennacherib, sent his army to the capital city of Jerusalem where Hezekiah lived. A special servant, called the Rabshakeh, came to

try to scare the people with a message. "People of Jerusalem, don't listen to Hezekiah, your king," he shouted. "King Hezekiah cannot save you. No one can protect you from the great king of the Assyrians—not even your God!"

- Was the Rabshakeh telling the truth? Were the Assyrians bigger and stronger than God? *No.*

The Rabshakeh was lying because he hoped the people would lose their courage and give up without fighting. This message was very scary. The Assyrians were a powerful enemy who were mean and cruel. And everyone knew they had attacked many other lands and taken them over.

Show the Assyrian Empire Map. Look at all the land they had taken. And look how tiny Judah is, right in the middle!

- How could this little kingdom of Judah stand up to such a mighty enemy? Do you think King Hezekiah and the people gave up? *Allow guesses.*

2 Kings 19:1

Let's see what King Hezekiah did when he heard the Rabshakeh's message. I'll read 2 Kings 19:1. Read the verse.

- What did Hezekiah do to his clothes? *He tore his clothes.*
- He tore his beautiful royal robes and covered himself with something. What was it? *Sackcloth.*

Sackcloth was a rough, scratchy cloth made from goat's hair. People who were very worried or really sad would wear sackcloth to show their great sorrow.

- Then where did King Hezekiah go? *Into the house of the Lord.*

The house of the Lord is another name for the temple, where the people worshipped God. Hezekiah humbled himself before God. Being humble is the opposite of being proud. Tearing his clothes and putting on sackcloth was like saying, "God, I can't do this on my own. I need your help."

Then Hezekiah asked God's prophet Isaiah what he should do. Isaiah said Hezekiah and his people should not be afraid but trust in God because God had a plan to save them from the Assyrians.

Hezekiah's Response

The enemy king didn't want Hezekiah to trust in God, though. He wanted Hezekiah to just give up, so he sent a letter to him. But it wasn't a friendly letter like the one we read earlier.

The Bible says his letter went something like this: Open and read the letter to Hezekiah.

- What did Sennacherib want Hezekiah to do? *Give up.*
- What did he say he would do to Judah? *Take it over and destroy it.*
- What did Sennacherib say about God? *Do not trust in God; he would not save the people of Judah.*
- What do you think Hezekiah did after he read this letter? *Allow guesses.*

2 Kings 19:14

Let's find out in 2 Kings 19:14. Read the verse.

- What did Hezekiah do with the letter? *He took it into the house of the Lord and spread it before the Lord.*

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Hezekiah went straight to the temple and spread out the letter. He was bringing his problem to God.

Hezekiah prayed. First, he praised God and gave him honor and glory for being the one true God. Then he asked God for help. Hezekiah knew that God was in control over everything (even the enemy), and he knew he could trust God completely. God answered Hezekiah's prayer. He was about to do something great that would make the enemy king go away instead of attacking the city.

That night the angel of the Lord went through the enemy camp and struck down 185,000 Assyrian soldiers! King Sennacherib lost so many of his soldiers and commanders that night that he had to leave and go home, just like God had promised.

God is all-powerful (omnipotent), and he will answer the prayers of those who trust in him. Even when the enemy kept saying God wouldn't help the people of Judah, King Hezekiah still trusted in God alone and brought his problem to the Lord in prayer. And God answered by keeping his people safe; they didn't even have to fight!

Your God cannot save you!



Hezekiah trusted God to help him.

