

Lesson 102

God Answers Hezekiah

King Hezekiah trusted in the Lord to deliver him
from the Assyrians.

Studying God's Word

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Introduction

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. We have already learned what happened to the northern kingdom after the nation of Israel was divided. Point to #27 where the Israel path ends on the timeline. The kings of Israel (the northern kingdom) led the people away from the Lord, and they worshipped idols. God eventually sent the Assyrians against them, and the people were taken far from their homes. Then we learned about some of the kings of Judah, the southern kingdom. Point to the beginning of the Judah path.

Which king did we learn about last time?
Joash.

Slide #3

Refer to Lesson 101 Theme Poster. God protected Joash from his evil grandmother Athaliah, who wanted to rule over Judah. But a brave woman named Jehosheba rescued Joash. She hid him in the temple, where Jehoiada, the high priest, taught Joash about the Lord. Joash became king

when he was only seven years old! He was a good king as long as Jehoiada was alive. He obeyed God's laws and restored the temple.

But what happened after Jehoiada's death? Joash turned from the Lord and worshipped idols.

After Jehoiada died, Joash listened to the princes of Judah, and they led him to worship idols. When Jehoiada's son Zechariah warned Joash and the people to stop sinning, Joash ordered him to be killed! Because Joash turned from the Lord at the end of his life, he is remembered for the evil things he did instead of the good.

Joash was the eighth king of Judah. Today we're going to learn about the thirteenth king. His name was Hezekiah. As we learn about King Hezekiah, you will work together on two teams to unscramble seven important words you'll hear in the lesson. Divide the class into two teams so that they can work together at the appropriate times.

Hezekiah's Obedience

Have the Scrambled Words ready.

Hezekiah became king when he was 25 years old. His father, King Ahaz, had worshipped false gods and had done evil in the sight of the Lord.

Let's see if Hezekiah was a better king than his father.

Slide #4

Slide #5

Slide #6

2 Kings 18:3-5

Turn to 2 Kings 18. Who will read verse 3?
Assign a reader.

Was Hezekiah a good king or a bad king according to this verse? Good king.

Yes. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord.

As I read verse 4, listen for something good that Hezekiah did. Read the verse.

What did Hezekiah remove and destroy?
High places and idols (pillars, Asherah, and the bronze serpent).

The high places were areas the people had set up for worship. But God had commanded them not to worship in these places, so Hezekiah got rid of them. He also destroyed the idols in the land.

Here is our first scrambled word. Ready?
Talk about it quietly, and as soon as your team knows the answer, raise your hands.
Hold up Scrambled Word #1 (idols). Give a clue if needed. When one of the teams

answers correctly, write the word on the board.

What else does this passage say about Hezekiah? Who would like to read verse 5?

Assign a reader.

Hezekiah trusted in whom? He trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel.

Continue showing each Scrambled Word and writing answers on the board when a team guesses correctly.

Get ready for the next word. Hold up Scrambled Word #2 (trusted).

Was there any other king of Judah as good as Hezekiah? No. There was none like him among all the kings of Judah.

What a great description! Hezekiah trusted God so much that there was no other king like him in Judah. He obeyed God his whole life. He cleaned out the temple and led the people to follow God's laws for worship.

Slide #7

Let's start the Class Notes. You will circle the correct bold word or phrase to complete each sentence. Who will read #1? Choose a reader. Judah. Have students complete #1.

Pass out the Class Notes.

Who will read #2 about what kind of king Hezekiah was? Choose a reader. Right. Complete #2.

The Rabshakeh's Message

Remember how the Assyrians captured the northern kingdom of Israel? Well, that was going on during Hezekiah's reign in Judah. And soon the Assyrians decided they wanted to take over the land of Judah, too. The Assyrian king, Sennacherib, sent ambassadors and part of his army to the capital city of Jerusalem in Judah. His ambassador, called the Rabshakeh, brought a message from King Sennacherib.

Slide #8

Slide #9

2 Kings 18:28–30

Who will read 2 Kings 18:28? Assign a reader.

This Assyrian ambassador wanted to frighten the people of Judah. He spoke in their own language to make sure they understood his message from the enemy king, Sennacherib.

Let's read his message from the king. Who will read verses 29–30? Assign readers. Who did the Rabshakeh say was trying to deceive, or trick, the people? Hezekiah.

Right. He was telling the people that their own king, Hezekiah, would lie to them and that he would not be able to protect them from the Assyrians. Hezekiah would tell the people to trust in God. But the Rabshakeh said the Lord would not be able to save them!

Was the Rabshakeh telling the truth? No.

The Rabshakeh was lying about King Hezekiah. He was trying to get the people to turn away from their king and from God. He didn't want the people to trust the Lord to save them from the Assyrian army. The Rabshakeh hoped the people would lose courage and give up without fighting.

The Rabshakeh's message would've been scary for the people in Jerusalem. The Assyrians were a mighty nation known for being mean and cruel, and they did not serve the true God.

Slide #10

Show the Assyrian Empire Map. At this time, Sennacherib had conquered and taken over many lands. Notice what a large area the Assyrian Empire controlled. Judah looks very small in the middle of this huge kingdom, doesn't it?

How could Judah possibly stand up to such a mighty empire? Do you think King Hezekiah and the people gave up? Allow guesses.

Slide #11

Slide #12

2 Kings 19:1-2

Let's read what King Hezekiah did after he heard the Rabshakeh's message. Turn to 2

Kings 19. Who will read verse 1? Assign a reader.

What was the first thing Hezekiah did? He tore his clothes and covered himself with sackcloth.

Sackcloth was a rough, uncomfortable cloth made from goats' hair. People who were mourning, or grieving, wore this material, so Hezekiah was showing great sorrow by putting on sackcloth.

Now, here's another word to unscramble. Show Scrambled Word #3 (sackcloth).

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

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

Let's see what else Hezekiah did. Listen as I read 2 Kings 19 verse 2. Read the verse.

Hezekiah sent his servants to see someone. Who was it? The prophet Isaiah.

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Isaiah was a prophet who served during the

reign of four kings of Judah. He wrote the book of Isaiah in the Bible and included some events about Hezekiah's reign. What did prophets do? Who gave prophets their messages? Prophets spoke for God; God gave them their messages. Why do you think Hezekiah sent his servants to Isaiah? Hezekiah was seeking God's direction for what to do.

Ready for word #4? Show Scrambled Word #4 (prophet).

Slide #13

2 Kings 19:6-7

Who will read what Isaiah said in verses 6-7 of chapter 19? Assign readers. Who was Isaiah speaking for? The Lord. What did God tell Hezekiah in verse 6? He told them not to be what? Afraid.

God said that King Hezekiah and his people should not be afraid. The Rabshakeh had said that the Lord would not save his people. But he and the king's other servants had reviled, or spoken against, God. They were not telling the truth. The people had no reason to believe the Rabshakeh's message.

In verse 7, God said he would put a spirit into the king of Assyria so that three things would happen to him. First, what would the king hear? He would hear a rumor.

And where would he return? To his own land.

And what would happen to him in his own land? He would fall by the sword.

As the Lord spoke through Isaiah, he reminded Hezekiah that God alone is all-powerful. God had a plan to save them from King Sennacherib and the Assyrians, and the people needed to trust in the Lord.

Slide #14

Slide #15

Slide #16

Let's complete some more Class Notes. Who will read #3 about the Rabshakeh? Choose a reader. Jerusalem. Have students complete #3.

Who will read #4 about what the Rabshakeh said? Choose a reader. Assyrians. Complete #4.

And #5, who will read that one about the Assyrians? Choose a reader. Many. Complete #5.

Where did Hezekiah go after he heard the Rabshakeh's message? That's #6. Choose a reader. The temple. Complete #6.

And #7? Which prophet did Hezekiah send his servants to? Choose a reader. Isaiah. Complete #7.

God's Deliverance

After delivering his message, the Rabshakeh left the Assyrian army camped around Jerusalem and reported to King Sennacherib, who was fighting against another city nearby. King Sennacherib wanted Hezekiah to give up quickly, so he sent a letter telling Hezekiah not to trust God to save them. In the letter, Sennacherib boasted about all the other nations and kings he had conquered and said he would also destroy Judah. He wanted Hezekiah to think there was no hope of being saved.

What do you think Hezekiah did after he read this letter? Allow guesses.

Slide #17

Slide #18

Slide #19

Slide #20

2 Kings 19:14–16 & 19

Look in 2 Kings 19. Who will read verse 14?

Assign a reader.

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

Show the Lesson Theme Poster. Hezekiah went to the temple and placed the letter down before the Lord.

Here's another scrambled word. Show Scrambled Word #5 (letter).

Then the king prayed. Follow along as I read verses 15–16. Read the verses.

How did Hezekiah begin his prayer? Did he talk about himself first or about God? About God.

And what did he say about God? How did he describe God? The God of Israel; enthroned above the cherubim (angels); the God of all kingdoms of the earth. He has made heaven and earth.

Hezekiah started his prayer with praise. He gave God honor and glory for being the one true God and the Creator of all things.

Let's see if you can unscramble this next word. Show Scrambled Word #6 (praise). What did Hezekiah pray next in verse 16? What did he ask God to hear? The words of Sennacherib.

Remember that King Sennacherib had mocked God by saying that he wasn't able to save Hezekiah and his people. But Hezekiah knew that the Lord was the only one who could save Judah. Hezekiah was bringing his problem directly to God.

Let's find out what else Hezekiah said in his prayer. Who will read 2 Kings 19:19? Assign a reader.

What else did Hezekiah ask God to do? To save them from "his hand," meaning the king of Assyria.

And what would all the kingdoms of the earth know when God saved them? That the Lord is God alone.

Hezekiah wanted God to show his power by saving them. The small nation of Judah could never defeat the Assyrian army on their own. If they were saved, all the nations around them would know it was the one true God who had saved them. Hezekiah wanted God to get the glory.

Here is the last scrambled word. Show Scrambled Word #7 (glory).

God answered Hezekiah's prayer by sending Isaiah with another message. Isaiah said God had heard his prayer, and he was about to do something great!

Slide #21

Slide #22

Slide #23

2 Kings 19:32–34 & 36

Follow along as I read 2 Kings 19 starting in verse 32. Read 2 Kings 19:32–34.

What did God say about the king of Assyria? What would God not let him do? Come into the city.

God promised that Sennacherib would not attack the city but would go back home instead.

Look in verse 34. What did God say he would do for the city of Jerusalem? Defend the city to save it.

Yes. God promised to save the city of Jerusalem for his own sake (for his glory) and for the sake of King David. Remember, God had promised that the Savior would be born through David's descendants (his family line).

Do you think God kept his promise to save Jerusalem from the Assyrians? Allow answers.

God always keeps his promises because he is faithful. That night, the Bible tells us, the angel of the Lord went through the enemy camp and struck down 185,000 Assyrians. Sennacherib lost many of his soldiers and commanders that night.

Let's find out what King Sennacherib did when he saw what had happened. Who will read verse 36? Assign a reader. What did Sennacherib do? He left Judah and went home.

Sennacherib lost so much of his army that he was forced to leave Jerusalem. The Assyrians had beaten many nations and become a mighty empire. Yet Sennacherib could not defeat the small nation of Judah because the Lord himself had fought for them. Later, after Sennacherib returned to Assyria, he was killed by the sword, just as God had said through his prophet Isaiah.

Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. What attribute of God describes his power to

defeat such a mighty enemy in one night?
Omnipotent, which means all-powerful.

God is great and powerful, and he will answer the prayers of those who trust in him. Hezekiah trusted in God alone, and God gave Judah victory over Assyria. The people of Judah didn't even have to fight!

Slide #24

Slide #25

Slide #26

Let's finish the Class Notes. Who will read #8? Choose a reader. Destroyed. Complete #8.

Who will read #9 about Hezekiah in the temple? Choose a reader. Pray. Complete #9.

And #10? Who struck down the Assyrians during the night? Choose a reader. Angel of the Lord. Complete #10.

Who will read #11 about Sennacherib? Choose a reader. Killed. Complete #11.

And the last one, #12. What attribute did God show when he saved Jerusalem?

Choose a reader. Omnipotence. Complete #12.

Application

Slide #27

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. We've learned about good King Hezekiah of Judah who did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. Use the

unscrambled words to review briefly some things that made Hezekiah a good king. (Idols—destroyed; trusted—in God; sackcloth—humility; prophet—Isaiah for advice; letter—taken to God; praise—to God in prayer; glory—to God for victory.) Even when it seemed that Judah would be destroyed by the powerful Assyrians, Hezekiah never lost hope. He trusted God. When he brought his problem to the Lord in prayer, God answered.

Hezekiah's prayer is a good example for us. He didn't pray only for himself and his problems. He also took time to praise God for who he is and for what he has done. Then when Hezekiah asked for help, he asked with the right attitude: He wanted the Lord to get the glory so that people would know more about the one true God.

We can do the same. When you pray, remember to praise and thank God for who he is and the things he has done for you. And when God answers your prayers, tell your friends about it. Tell them that God is the one helping you with everyday problems. When you tell your friends about God's goodness, it will help them better understand who God is.

Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

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