

## Hezekiah, Judah's Faithful King

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 2 Kings 18–19

**MAIN POINT:** God answered Hezekiah's prayer.

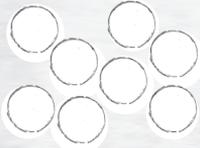
**KEY PASSAGE:** Hebrews 1:1-2

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How many gods are there? There is one true God.

### SMALL GROUP OPENING

(15–20 MINUTES)

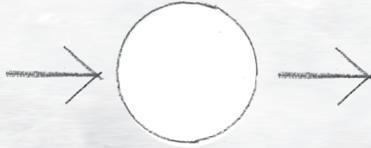
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### LARGE GROUP BIBLE STUDY

(10–15 MINUTES)

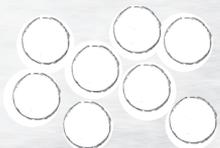
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### SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

(20–25 MINUTES)

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## Leader BIBLE STUDY

*He's a chip off the old block. Like father, like son. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.* These idioms exist because sons tend to look and behave like their fathers. When it came to Hezekiah and his father, Ahaz, however, the two were far from similar.

When Ahaz was king of Judah, he did not respect God, God's law, or God's prophets. He worshiped idols. Ahaz "did not do what was right in the sight of the Lord his God" (2 Kings 16:2). He led the people away from God, provoking God's wrath and anger.

Hezekiah, on the other hand, "did what was right in the

Lord's sight just as his ancestor David had done." Hezekiah destroyed the places of idol worship and cleansed the temple. (See 2 Chron. 29.) The Lord was with Hezekiah, and Hezekiah prospered.

Hezekiah was a faithful king who led the people of Judah to worship God like they were supposed to, but even good kings are sinners. His wealth and success led to pride. How did Hezekiah react when God said everything in his palace would be carried off to Babylon? "Who cares? I'll be dead by then."

Jesus is our faithful King who never sinned. Check out some of these definitions for the word *faithful*: "strict or thorough in the performance of duty"; "true to one's word, promises, or vows"; "steady in allegiance or affection"; "loyal"; "constant"; "reliable, trusted, or believed"; "adhering or true to fact, a standard, or an original"; "accurate."

Jesus completed His work—the redemption of sinners. He said on the cross, "It is finished!" (John 19:30). Jesus is faithful over God's house as a Son. (Heb. 3:6) His obedience is steadfast. (Isa. 50:4-10) "Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8). One day Jesus will return to make all things the way they are supposed to be. (Rev. 1:1-6)



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# The BIBLE STORY

## Hezekiah, Judah's Faithful King

*2 Kings 18–19*

**Hezekiah** was a young man when he **became the king of Judah**. He did what God said was right, just like his relative King David did. **Hezekiah trusted God, and God was with him.**

One day, the evil king of Assyria attacked Israel—the land north of Judah. The army made all the people go to Assyria.

A few years later, **the king of Assyria and his army came to Judah. Hezekiah was afraid. He told the king of Assyria, “Please go away; I will give you as much money as you want.”**

**The king said, “Give me eleven tons of silver and a ton of gold.”** Hezekiah did not have that much silver and gold! **Hezekiah took the silver** that was in God's temple **and** in the palace. The temple doors had gold on them, so he took the **gold** off the doors and the doorposts, **and he gave it to the king of Assyria.**

**But the king of Assyria did not go away.** He sent his leaders to talk to Hezekiah. “You should just give up,” they said.

**Hezekiah sent a message to Isaiah the prophet. “Pray for us! Ask God to protect us!”** Hezekiah said.

**Isaiah said, “God says, ‘Don't be afraid. The king of Assyria will go home, and he will die there.’”**

**Then Hezekiah got a letter from the leaders in Assyria. The letter said, “God is not going to protect you.”**

**Hezekiah went to the temple. He spread out the letter and prayed, “God, please save us from the evil king of**

**Assyria. Then everyone will know that You are the one true God.”** God heard Hezekiah’s prayer. God was not going to let Assyria attack Hezekiah’s city.

**That night, the angel of the Lord went into the camp where the Assyrian army was staying. Many of the enemy soldiers were killed. The next day, the king of Assyria went home. He died too, just like God said he would.**

*Christ Connection: Hezekiah prayed that God would save His people from their enemies so that everyone would know He is the one true God. Jesus also prayed for His people. Then Jesus, the Son of God, died on the cross and rose again to save people from sin.*



**WANT TO  
DISCOVER  
GOD’S WORD?  
GET  
MORE!**

Invite preschoolers to check out this week’s devotionals to discover that Hezekiah was a good king who trusted God.

(2 Kings 18:5) No king was like him, but he pointed ahead to a greater King, Jesus.

(Rev. 1:5) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out [www.lifeway.com/devotionals](http://www.lifeway.com/devotionals).

# Small Group OPENING

**SESSION TITLE:** Hezekiah, Judah's Faithful King

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 2 Kings 18–19

**MAIN POINT:** God answered Hezekiah's prayer.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Hebrews 1:1-2

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How many gods are there? There is one true God.

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## Welcome time

- "Only One True God" song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play the unit theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church's security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

## Activity page

- "Hidden Scrolls" activity page, 1 per child
- pencils or crayons

Lead preschoolers to find and circle the five hidden scrolls.

**SAY** • King Hezekiah got a letter from the leaders in Assyria. They planned to attack Judah. The letter said, "God is not going to protect you." Hezekiah was afraid, but he did the best thing we can do when we are afraid: he prayed. Let's find out what God did in today's Bible story.

## Play a color game

Tape pieces of red, green, yellow, and blue construction paper in the four corners of the room. Hold the other four papers in your hand. Explain that when you hold up a paper, preschoolers must go to the corner with the matching color. Between rounds, preschoolers should go to

LOW PREP

- red, green, yellow, and blue construction paper, 2 of each color
- masking tape

the middle of the room. Play as time allows.

**SAY** • You all had to go to the wall with the color I was holding up. In today’s Bible story, the Assyrian army attacked Israel and made all the people go to Assyria. Then the evil king of Assyria headed for Judah! Let’s find out what happened.

## Pin the crown on the king

Create a “pin the crown on the king” game by drawing a crown-less king on a large piece of paper. Cut several crown shapes from construction paper.

Hang the king image on a wall. Blindfold the first child and give her a crown with tape on the back. Spin her in a circle one or two times. Guide her to attempt to place the crown on the king’s head. Continue play until each child has a turn. See whose crown is the closest to the correct spot. Consider simply spinning younger preschoolers around instead of using a blindfold.

**SAY** • We have learned about many kings from the Bible. Many of the kings were not good kings. Today’s story is about a good king, King Hezekiah. Hezekiah trusted God, and God was with him. But King Hezekiah was not perfect. Jesus is the only perfect king. Let’s find out more about King Hezekiah from our Bible story.

- large sheet of paper
- markers
- construction paper
- scissors
- tape
- blindfold (optional)

## Transition to Bible study

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Invite preschoolers to make prayer hands as they move to Bible study.

- countdown video (optional)

# Large Group LEADER

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## Introduce the Bible story

**SAY** • Do you know what bullying is? [*Invite responses.*]

Bullying is being very mean to someone over and over again. In today's Bible story, the king of Assyria was bullying God's people. God put a stop to the king of Assyria's bullying and rescued His people. Let's find out how.

## Watch or tell the Bible story

Place a bookmark at 2 Kings in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

**SAY** • The Bible is true. Everything in the Bible really happened. The Bible is God's Word. Today's Bible story is found in 2 Kings.

Show the Bible story video "Hezekiah, Judah's Faithful King" or tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided. Use the bolded version for younger preschoolers.

## Talk about the Bible story

**SAY** • Hezekiah was afraid of the king of Assyria, and Hezekiah prayed to God. **God answered Hezekiah's**

- bookmark
- Bible
- "Hezekiah, Judah's Faithful King" video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

**prayer.** God protected His people just like He said He would do.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or big story circle as you ask the following review questions:

1. Did King Hezekiah trust God? (*yes*)
2. The king of Assyria said he would go way if Hezekiah gave him what? (*silver and gold*)
3. What did the leaders of Assyria say in their letter? (*God would not protect Judah.*)
4. What did Hezekiah do after the got the letter? (*went to the temple, spread out the letter, and prayed*)
5. What did God do? (*defeated the Assyrian army*)

## Learn the big picture question

**SAY •** *How many gods are there? There is one true God.*

Hezekiah prayed that God would save His people from their enemies so that everyone would know He is the one true God. Jesus also prayed for His people. Then Jesus, the Son of God, died on the cross and rose again to save people from sin.

• Big Picture Question Poster

## Practice the key passage

Open your Bible to Hebrews 1:1-2. Read the key passage aloud several times. Sing together the key passage song, “Speaking to Us.”

**SAY •** The prophet Isaiah gave King Hezekiah God’s message that Judah would be safe from the king of Assyria. Because God sent Jesus, we no longer need prophets to give us God’s messages. God sent His own Son to save people from sin.

• Key Passage Poster  
• “Speaking to Us” song

## Transition to small groups

# Small Group ACTIVITIES

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## Write letters to church leaders

Write letters of encouragement to your pastor, church staff, and ministry leaders. Ask a preschooler to think of what she can say to encourage the person receiving the letter. Write down her words. Then invite the preschooler to draw an encouraging picture on the back of the letter. Lead her to pray for the ministry leader as she draws. If possible, deliver the letters of encouragement as a group and pray for the leader in person.

**SAY** • The leaders in Assyria sent King Hezekiah a discouraging letter, but we are sending encouraging letters and praying for our church leaders. **God answered Hezekiah's prayer**, and He will answer our prayers too. Jesus also prayed for people. Jesus loved people so much He died on the cross and rose again to save them from sin.



- paper
- pencils
- markers



## Play “Duck, duck, pray”

Invite preschoolers to sit in a circle on the floor. Say “Hezekiah” (HEZ ih kigh uh) and lead preschoolers to repeat after you until they can pronounce the name correctly. Then play this version of “Duck, Duck, Goose.”

Invite preschoolers to sit in a circle. Choose one child to be *It*. *It* walks around the outside of the circle, gently tapping each child on the shoulder and says one word of the main point for each tap, “God, answered, Hezekiah’s, prayer.” When *It* taps a child and says, “prayer,” the child tapped must chase *It* around the circle until *It* sits in the open spot. That child is now *It*. Play several times. At the end of the game, invite children to remain in the circle as you lead them in prayer.

**SAY** • God, You are the one true God. No one is like You! Thank You that when Hezekiah prayed, You answered Hezekiah’s prayer and saved Your people from their enemies. Thank You for sending Your Son to die on the cross and rise again to save us from sin. Thank You that even now Jesus is still praying for us.

## Build with silver and gold blocks

Before the session, wrap wooden blocks with silver and gold wrapping paper. Invite preschoolers to build with the blocks.

**SAY** • King Hezekiah took the silver and gold from the temple and gave it to the Assyrian king. He hoped Assyria would leave Judah alone. But the king did not go away. Finally, Hezekiah prayed that God would save His people from the Assyrians so that everyone would know He is the one true God. **God answered Hezekiah’s prayer.**

- blocks
- silver wrapping paper or foil
- gold wrapping paper
- tape

## Make scrolls

Cut a sheet of brown kraft paper for each preschooler. Write the big picture question and answer on each preschooler’s scroll. Invite preschoolers to decorate their scrolls with

- brown kraft paper
- scissors
- markers
- stickers
- ribbon or yarn

markers and stickers. Demonstrate how to roll up both ends of the scroll so the rolls meet in the middle. Tie each preschooler's scroll with a ribbon or piece of yarn.

**SAY** • When Hezekiah got the mean letter from the leader of Assyria, he prayed that God would save His people from their enemies so that everyone would know He is the one true God. **God answered Hezekiah's prayer.** Jesus also prayed for His people. Then Jesus, the Son of God, died on the cross and rose again to save people from sin.

## Look at books about prayer

Gather books containing prayers for preschoolers to look through. Include adult prayer books for preschoolers to browse, along with children's prayer books. Be sure to include the Bible. Consider reading a storybook in which a character prays.

**SAY** • Prayer is a wonderful gift God has given His people. Because of Jesus, we can talk to the one true God anytime and anywhere. Hezekiah prayed that God would save His people from their enemies, and **God answered Hezekiah's prayer.** Jesus also prayed for His people. Then Jesus, the Son of God, died on the cross and rose again to save people from sin.

- Bible
- books about prayers
- storybook (optional)

Option: Invite a guest who is known as a person of prayer to come and pray with your class.

## Snack

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Guide preschoolers to clean their areas. Take a restroom break and wash hands. Gather preschoolers for snack time. Thank God for the snack.

Serve 12 small crackers to each preschooler for snack. Remind preschoolers that the king of Assyria told Hezekiah to give him 11 tons of silver and a ton of gold which makes 12 tons. King Hezekiah was afraid, so he did what the king asked. The Assyrians did not go away, but when Hezekiah prayed and asked God to protect them, **God answered Hezekiah's prayer.** When we are afraid, we do not have to work hard to make things better on our own. We can pray to God and ask Him to help us.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- snack food
- paper cups and napkins

## Transition

When a child finishes her snack, guide her to throw away any trash. She may select a book or puzzle to examine, play quietly with play dough or a favorite toy, or color the Bible story coloring page.

Offer the journal page and invite preschoolers to draw a picture of a time or place they can pray. Remind preschoolers that God hears our prayers and that the Bible says Jesus is praying for us. Pray for the children.

**SAY** • God, You are the one true God. Thank You for hearing us and answering us when we pray. Thank You for sending Jesus, Your very own Son, to die on the cross and rise again to save us from sin. Amen.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- books
- puzzles
- play dough
- Journal Page printable, 1 per child
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- *Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschool*