



THE PROPHETS

Date: 8.18.24 | Title: King Hezekiah Trusted God | Scripture: 2 Chronicles 29-32 & 2 Kings 18-20

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

Middle School Students

The Bible is God's message about Himself and His salvation plan through Jesus.

God deserves respect, obedience, and honor.

God wants us to live for His glory.

God sent Jesus to be the atonement for our sins.

Jesus fulfills Old Testament prophecies and promises.

High School Students

The Bible is God's message about Himself and His salvation plan through Jesus.

God deserves respect, obedience, and honor.

God wants us to live for His glory.

God is a righteous judge.

God sent Jesus to be the atonement for our sins.

Jesus fulfills Old Testament prophecies and promises.

Jesus gave His life for us on the cross and He is the only way for salvation.



MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance." 1 Peter 3:9

BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

After being conquered by the Assyrians, the kingdom of Israel was imploding. The kingdom of Judah would continue for another 150 years. At this time, King Hezekiah reigned over Judah. This king followed the Lord as David did (29:2) and turned Judah back to Yahweh. In response, “all Israel” went out and destroyed idols in the land (31:1). The priests and Levites were appointed to serve in their divisions as structured by David, so that sacrifices and praise would be offered (Chapter 31 and 1 Chronicles 23-25). The narrator of 2 Chronicles focuses on the re-opening of the temple and the roles of priests and Levites (29:3-5). Hezekiah made a covenant with the Lord, and the Levites consecrated themselves to cleanse the temple (29:10-19). Sacrifices were offered according to the law to secure atonement for the people (29:20-24). The Levites were stationed to play instruments and to sing, and the assembly worshipped the Lord and sang his praises (29:25-30) and offered sacrifices of joy and consecration (29:31-33). Contributions and tithes were brought so that they could perform their ministry. King Hezekiah broke down the altars and idols throughout the area and encouraged the people to return to God (2 Kings 18:4-8). Hezekiah kept the Lord’s commands, for he trusted in the Lord (18:5-6). The Lord was with him (18:7), for the Lord always defends one who lives to honor his name. Hezekiah also reinstated the Passover, long neglected and forgotten during all the years of the bad kings (2 Chronicles 30). There was great joy in Jerusalem because there had been no time like this since the time of Solomon (30:25-27).

This change of heart and renewal of faith came at just the right time, because soon afterward, Assyria invaded Judah. Having conquered the northern kingdom of Israel some years earlier, Assyria, prepared to lay siege to Jerusalem. Assyria approached Jerusalem twice. The first time, the Assyrian king threatened Jerusalem, but was paid off with a tribute (2 Kings 18). The second time, a new king fresh off his conquest of the rest of Judah, sent his chief of staff to the gates of Jerusalem with an intimidating letter promising destruction (2 Kings 18). Hezekiah prepared to resist, building up the city walls and watchtowers and forging weapons and shields. He encouraged the people not to fear Assyria, saying, “With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the Lord our God, to help us and to fight our battles” (2 Chronicles 32:8).

Hezekiah rebelled against Assyria (18:7). The Assyrians had no doubt that they would capture Jerusalem, ridiculing the idea that the Lord would deliver Israel from their hand (18:19-37), for the gods of other nations had been unable to withstand the might of the Assyrian superpower. However, the Lord promised to spare Jerusalem from Assyria’s hand to thwart Assyria’s pride (2 Kings 19).

BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

The king sent messengers and letters to discourage everyone in Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 6-19). “Don’t think your God can save you,” they said. “Every other nation we’ve conquered built up their defenses and trusted their gods- and it did them no good. It won’t help you either. Save yourself the trouble and surrender now”. Given Assyria’s track record, their threats had weight and credibility, but they did not have the God that Hezekiah served. They were no match for God’s power.

Assyrian troops, at the time the mightiest army in the world, surrounded the city, preparing to lay siege. King Hezekiah spread out the letter before the Lord (2 Kings 19:14), praying for God to intervene and save his people. Isaiah the prophet came in and encouraged the king.

Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah led the people in crying out to God to deliver them, and God came through big time: “The Lord sent an angel who cut down every mighty man of valor, leader, and captain in the camp of the king of Assyria” (2 Chronicles 32:21). Hezekiah prayed that God would deliver Jerusalem (19:15-19), and Yahweh answered his prayer. Because Hezekiah humbled himself before God, God took care of Assyria and became the strong deliverer for Israel, sending a single angel to wipe out 185,000 Assyrian troops (2 Kings 19:35). Assyria had an army of 185,000, but Judah had an army of ONE. God’s people trusted Him in their hour of need. Hezekiah and Jerusalem were spared from the Assyrians because they trusted in the Lord (2 Chronicles 32). God’s name was honored by this deliverance, and the Davidic king was vindicated (19:34). This deliverance under Hezekiah signifies that the Lord will ultimately rescue His people.

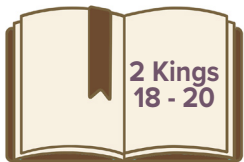
After this, Assyria’s army was destroyed, which left it open to being conquered by a new world power, Babylon. A century and a half passed after God spared Judah in Hezekiah’s time, with various successor kings taking Judah’s throne. Only one of them, Josiah (Hezekiah’s great-grandson) did right by God. Eventually Babylon made three successive attacks against Jerusalem and Judah fell into exile to the Babylonians.

Hezekiah didn’t finish well. He became arrogant after God fought the Assyrians and blessed him with wealth and power. God humbled Hezekiah with a major illness. Also, when Babylonian ambassadors came to check out all of Hezekiah’s wealth and splendor, “God withdrew from him, in order to test him, that He might know all that was in his heart “(v.31). Hezekiah flunked, showing the Babylonians all the wealth in the treasury, which enticed his visitors to put Jerusalem on their list of places to invade and conquer. Judah was conquered by the Babylonians about 30 years after Hezekiah’s death.



THE PROPHETS

LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY



**TELL
THE
STORY**

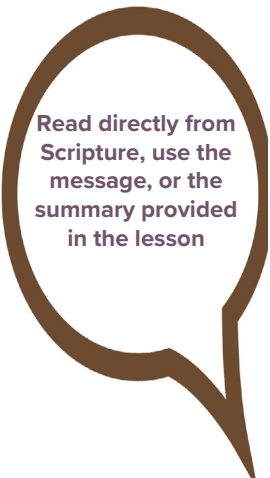


Tell the story: Use the Background Info for Leaders or The Message Bible summary of scripture to help tell today's story.

Re-tell the Bible Story: Have students re-tell the story as best they can.

Attributes of God: Determine the characteristics of God that we see in today's story. How can knowing these characteristics of God to be true, change the way we live in Christ?

Share the GOSPEL: God is trustworthy! Yahweh created us, loves us and wants a forever relationship with us. We can trust that God does all things for His glory and our good. God has proven to be consistent and trustworthy throughout scripture as well as in our own individual lives. God provided a way for our adoption as sons and daughters in His kingdom by offering up His only Son, Jesus, the perfect sacrifice!



Re-Tell
The Bible
Story

Put the events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc...



THE PROPHETS

“Storying” Questions: As you ask these questions, have your students find the answers in the actual verses of scripture instead of recalling them from your re-telling of the story. We always want to encourage all of our students to go directly to God’s Word over a commentary on or summary of scripture.

1. Which kingdom was conquered first?
2. Which enemy defeated them?
3. Why did God allow this to happen?
4. How do we see God’s grace and mercy in this?
5. What does this tell us about how God sees sin? How should this affect the way we see sin?
6. What else does this tell us about God’s character?
7. How much longer did the second kingdom (Judah) continue?
8. Who was the king of Judah during this time?
9. What are some high points of King Hezekiah’s reign?
10. What actions show us that Hezekiah trusted God in the midst of conflict and distress?
11. Which prophet assisted Hezekiah?
12. Can we draw any conclusions about why Israel was destroyed 150 years before Judah?

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

ATTENTIVE - God hears and responds to the needs of his children.

COMPASSIONATE - God cares for his children and acts on their behalf.

CREATOR - God made everything. He is uncreated.

DELIVERER - God rescues and saves his children.

ETERNAL - God is not limited by time. He exists outside of time.

FAITHFUL - God always keeps his promises.

GENEROUS - God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

GLORIOUS - God displays His greatness and worth.

GOOD - God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

HOLY - God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING - God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

INCOMPREHENSIBLE - God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

INFINITE - God has not limits in His person or on His power.

JEALOUS - God will not share his glory with another. all glory rightfully belongs to him.

JUST - god is fair in all his actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

LOVING - God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward his children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

MERCIFUL - God does not give his children the punishment they deserve.

OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY - God holds all power. nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

OMNIPRESENT - God is fully present everywhere.

OMNISCIENT - God knows everything, past, present, and future - all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING - God is untiring and bears with His children.

PROVIDER - God meets the needs of his children.

REFUGE - God is a place of safety and protection for his children.

RIGHTEOUS - God is always good and right.

SELF-EXISTENT - God depends on nothing and no one to give him life or existence.

SELF-SUFFICIENT - God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

SOVEREIGN - God does everything according to His plan and pleasure.

TRANSCENDENT - God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

TRUTHFUL - Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

WISE - God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

WORTHY - God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

WRATHFUL - God hates all unrighteousness.



THE PROPHETS

PRAYER PROMPTS

God, You are just and merciful. Thank You for sending Jesus to take the punishment for our sin. Help us to be quick to repent! We love You!

IF TIME ALLOWS:

Help the students in your group practice memorizing the books of the Bible:

- Torah: Genesis-Deuteronomy
- History: Joshua-Esther
- Poetry: Job-Song of Solomon
- Major Prophets: Isaiah-Daniel
- Minor Prophets: Hosea-Malachi
- Gospels: Matthew-John
- Paul's Letters: Romans-Philemon
- General Letters: Hebrews-Revelation

MISSIONS EMPHASIS:

For the months of August, September and October we will be collecting money for the Connie Maxwell Children's Home. Please visit their website for pictures and descriptions of some of the services they offer that you can share with your group. A generous donor will match all of our donations. Encourage your class to collect money and donate it in the giving funnel in the upstairs lobby. Students can donate with their families as they arrive, or you can go together as a class on the way back to the Worship Center at the end of SS.

REVIEW UNIT VERSE:

Work on memorizing this weeks verse with the students in your group. You can use the first letter of each word in the verse to help with this. For example, the unit verse would look like this:



Application Questions

LOOK UPWARD



- How does this story apply to your relationship with God?
- What does it teach you about Him- His will and His heart?
- What aspect of His character is He inviting you to experience and enjoy?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your relationship with God?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in your relationship with God?

LOOK INWARD



- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself, your needs, or your goals in life?
- In what aspects of your personal life is God inviting you to grow and mature?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story inwardly?
- How will those around you benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to allow these truths to help you grow spiritually?

LOOK AROUND



- How does this story apply to your relationship with others?
- What does it teach you about how to see others and relate to them?
- What is god inviting you to do differently in your relationships?



Application Questions

LOOK OUTWARD

- How does this story apply to your ministry and mission in life- to your role in God's kingdom, in society, and in the world?
- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your ministry?
- How will the world benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

LOOK FORWARD

- How does this story apply to your future, both in this age and in eternity?
- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What aspects of eternity is God inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit in the future by applying these truths now?
- How will God's kingdom benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?