

LESSON PLAN

HEZEKIAH WINS OVER ASSYRIA

2 Kings 18-19

Lesson Memory Verse: I Thessalonians 5:17 “Pray without ceasing.”

Lesson Aim: The Lord answers the prayers of godly men; so keep your life pure and pray always.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): A few years ago five men were working in a deep cave far underground. Some rocks fell down and all of these men were trapped in total darkness without food or water. All five men were Christians so they sang Christian songs and prayed again and again for God to save their lives. They prayed for two and one-half days and God answered their prayers and they were rescued.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse tells us that we also should pray like these five men who were trapped in the cave. It says we should “pray without ceasing.” This means that we should pray to God for all of our needs every day. We should pray for our little needs, like when we lose our school pencil and need to find it. We should pray for big needs, like when our lives are in danger, as the men in the cave did. “Pray without ceasing” does not mean we pray all of the time, but that we pray regularly and are ready to pray any time.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application); PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. The story today tells what Hezekiah had done so that he was ready to pray to God when a wicked king wanted to destroy him and his country.

I. Hezekiah Honored God (2 Kings 18:1-16)

Hezekiah honored God by obeying Him. Hezekiah obeyed God’s Ten Commandments. He destroyed the false gods in his land and punished the people who worshipped these false gods. Hezekiah was better than other good kings because he not only hated and destroyed the false gods, but he also worshipped the true God. This made it possible for him to pray to God at any time. Sin did not stop his prayers (Ps 66:18).

WE: We must hate sin and stay away from it, if we expect God to answer our prayers. If we love anything more than God, it is the worship of a false god. This is sin. We must not let it happen to us. If it happens, stop it, confess it to God and ask Him to forgive you. This will show that you want to honor Him. He will see that you are sincere and will forgive you (1 Jn 1:9). Then God will hear and answer your prayers again.

II. Hezekiah Hoped in God (2 Kings 18:17-37)

A tough, bully king by the name of Sennacherib said he was going to destroy Hezekiah and all of his people if they did not surrender to him. He told the people that God could not protect them from him. King Hezekiah could have become very frightened by King Sennacherib and surrendered to this wicked king, but he did not. King Hezekiah was a godly man and trusted in God to protect his country. He did not even try to talk to this wicked king. He put all of his hope in God, which pleases Him. This is another reason why Hezekiah was able to pray to God and expect Him to answer.

WE: We must hope in God to take care of us and not be frightened by wicked people. Then we can pray and expect to answer our prayers.

III. Hezekiah Humbled Himself Before God (2 Kings 19:1-13)

Hezekiah was not proud. He did not blame God or try to do things his own way. Instead he humbled himself before God. Hezekiah took off his bright robes and put on the rough cloth of sacks. This was the way that people in his day showed God that they were trying to be humble. A humble man does not show off and talk tough. A humble man realizes that he is weak and unable to defeat his enemy, but he believes God is able and trusts in Him to do it when he prays. Hezekiah told his servants to go to Isaiah and they were to find out what God had told him. Hezekiah wanted to know God’s plan. Sennacherib did just the opposite. He put his trust in his powerful army. He was proud of all the victories that they had over

LESSON PLAN

other cities and nations. He was certain that his army would defeat Jerusalem and make Hezekiah's people his slave

WE: We must be humble before God. How do we act when we are humble? We will admit that we have no power to defeat our enemy, but we depend totally on God's power. We will not ask unsaved people for advice, but we will ask God in prayer what we should do. He will give His answer from the Bible. He may use someone who knows the Bible to give us God's answer from His Word, the Bible. Do not take anyone's advice if he or she fails to give you some Scriptures to support the advice given to you. God will help you if you are humble (1 Peter 5:5-6).

IV. Hezekiah Had Faith in God (2 Kings 19:14-19)

Hezekiah prayed to God for His help. He had faith in God to take care of his problem (Psalm 55:22; 1 Peter 5:7). He did not blow his bugles and tell his army to go out and fight. Hezekiah simply asked God to save him from the enemy. He knew he served the true and living God (19:16, 19). This showed he had faith in God and such faith pleases God (Heb 11:6).

WE: We must learn to have faith in God and roll our burdens on Him. He invites us to give our problems to Him. He knows we are too weak to handle them by ourselves.

V. Hezekiah was Heard by God (2 Kings 19:20-37)

Hezekiah asked God to save his nation from being destroyed by Sennacherib's huge army. Hezekiah prayed to God and made a big request. He asked God to defeat Sennacherib's army of 185,000 soldiers. But God answered his prayers so well that nobody from Hezekiah's nation was even hurt. During the night, God sent an angel who killed all of the 185,000 soldiers of Sennacherib's army. That shows how powerful God is. No army is too big for Him to handle. Hezekiah received an answer to his prayer because he honored God, hoped in Him, humbled himself and had faith in Him to hear his prayer. And God did hear his prayer and answered it in a big way.

WE: We need to be ready to pray to God all of the time. Are you spiritually ready to pray to God so that He will hear and answer your prayers?

Sennacherib went to the city of Nineveh after his army was killed, and history tells us that many years later, while he worshipped a false god, his sons killed him. This proud king worshipped the wrong god. He spoke against the true God and lost his army and then he lost his own life. Hezekiah worshipped the true God and when he prayed, God heard it and answered it: God saved Jerusalem and God saved Hezekiah's life.

WE: We need to worship the true God and then we can pray to Him and He will answer our prayers. Has He heard and answered your prayers?

BE (for Action): How many of you have a problem that you would like God to take out of your life? If you have a problem and want God to remove it, you must come to God with great respect for Him, love Him and want to obey His commands (Jn 14:13-15; 15:10). Since He is sinless and holy, you must hate any sins that you have done, tell them to God, stop doing them and ask Him to forgive you. If you are humble and your prayer is not selfish, tell God exactly what you want Him to do. If you believe He will answer your prayer, thank Him for His answer, even before He gives it to you (Phil 4:6). This is proof that you believe He will answer you. Above all, accept God's will in this matter. He knows all things and is most wise. He knows what is best for you, so do not expect Him to do something that would be bad for you. I am ready to help you, if you have any problems in getting answers to your prayers. What I have given you will help you in learning how to pray. (Teachers: make an appeal for the children to handle one, two, three or all four of these areas of being ready for prayer, depending on the age level of your children. Younger children can only concentrate on one or two areas. You might give them an invitation tell their problems to you privately, so you can guide them in their prayers. Pray with them privately and challenge them to pray about that problem no less than once a day until God has answered it.)