

LESSON PLAN

HEZEKIAH'S SICKNESS AND RECOVERY

2 Kings 20

Lesson Memory Verse: Jeremiah 32:27 "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh; is there anything too hard for me?"

Lesson Aim: The Lord can do great things; so ask Him to do great things through you and for you.

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

KEY (for Attention): Can you remember trying to do something that was too hard for you to do? Maybe it was pushing a car up a little hill, or maybe it was lifting a heavy stone and carrying it someplace. Tell me about the things that were too hard for you to do. (Let them discuss their experiences one at a time. It will give you an interesting insight into their lives and it will help them to get interested in the lesson.) Our story today is about a king who wanted to do something, but when he could not do it, he cried. God, however, heard him cry and heard him pray, and He did it for him. Our God can do anything!

HE (for Authority): In our memory verse, the LORD is speaking to Jeremiah. He says that He is the LORD. Names of God in the Bible have special meaning. This name for God was given to the Jews when He promised to take them out of Egypt and bring them to the land that He promised to Abraham. This name meant there was a special relationship between Him and Israel, which no other nation enjoyed. However, He went on to say that He was "the God of all flesh." He created every person on earth, so He has the right to rule all people. Even though He had a special relationship with Israel, He is the God of all flesh. The name, God, refers to His power. He revealed His power in His creation of all things; He also revealed His power in taking care of all the things that He created. So He is the Creator and the Ruler of all people on the earth. Nothing is too hard for Him; He can rule all people on earth fairly and effectively. He will reward those that do right and will judge those that do wrong.

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. Since God can do anything, I will tell this story to prove that it is true. It will show you two things that He did that the king could not do for himself. The king in our story was Hezekiah, a good king, and Isaiah was the prophet of God that worked with him.

I. Hezekiah's Problem (2 Kings 20:1)

God sent Isaiah to King Hezekiah with some very bad news. Hezekiah had been very sick with a boil and Isaiah told him that he was going to die. (You may have to explain what a boil is.) Hezekiah did not want to die; he had hoped that he would get well and live for many more years. He loved to be the king of Judah, but now he was told that he would soon die.

WE: We do not like to hear bad news. If a doctor told you that you were going to die very soon, what would you do? (Let them tell their thoughts about dying. It will prepare them for the next part of the story.)

II. Hezekiah's Prayer (2 Kings 20:2-6)

Hezekiah was shocked when he heard that he was going to die very soon. He started to cry and begged the Lord to save his life. He told the Lord all the good things he had done and asked Him to remember these things. Oh, how he prayed that the Lord would listen to his prayer and save him from dying.

When Hezekiah prayed, the Lord did listen to him. Before Isaiah had gotten to the middle of the courtyard, the Lord told Isaiah to go back and tell Hezekiah that He had heard his prayer and that He would heal him. On the third day he would go to the house of the Lord to worship Him. The Lord also promised to let Hezekiah live for another fifteen years and He would deliver Jerusalem from the Assyrian king for His sake.

WE: When we heard bad news, we may cry like Hezekiah. But we should also pray to the Lord like Hezekiah. The Lord wants us to pray so He can answer our prayers and show us His power. This should cause us to praise Him for answering our prayers. Please, do not forget to thank the Lord for answering your prayers. That is how we glorify Him. It is a common sin to ask the Lord for something and when He gives it to us, we forget to thank Him. Do not commit this sin! It is a wonderful thing to have the Lord hear

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and answer our prayers, but we must not forget to thank Him when He answers our prayers. But if He does something that we do not like, we must learn to accept it and not cry, because God loves us and He is making us more like His Son by doing this to us. He knows what is best for us.

III. Hezekiah's Proof (2 Kings 20:7-11)

Isaiah told Hezekiah to put a lump of figs on his boil to heal it on the third day. But Hezekiah wanted proof that the Lord was going to heal him, so he asked Isaiah for a sign to prove the Lord would do it. Isaiah gave Hezekiah a choice. He said the shadow on the sundial could go ahead ten degrees or it could go backward ten degrees. That meant the light from the sun would either go forward on the dial toward sunset or it would go backward on the dial toward sunrise. Hezekiah said it would be harder for the shadow to go backward toward sunrise, so he chose that the light on the sundial go backward. This would prove to him that he would become well on the third day. After Hezekiah made his choice, Isaiah prayed to the Lord and told Him what Hezekiah wanted. What do you think happened? Yes, the shadow went backward one degree, two degrees, three degrees, (you can name all of the degrees)...and finally it went backward ten degrees. Nothing is too hard for God; He can do anything! Hezekiah had his proof that the Lord would heal him within three days when the shadow went backward on the sundial ten degrees.

WE: We do not need signs from God in our day. He does not prove that He has heard our prayers by some great sign, but He has given us something better. He has given us His promise in the Bible that He will hear and answer us. Here are a few of His promises: John 14:13-14; 15:7, 16; 16:23-24; 1 John 5:14-15. This is better proof than a sign. God will keep His promises.

BE (for Action): What two things did the Lord do for King Hezekiah that he could not do for himself? ([1] He healed him of a boil. [2] He made the shadow on the sundial to go backward ten degrees.) Since God can do great things that neither you nor anyone else can do, what should you do when you pray to God? (Tell Him that you believe that nothing is too hard for Him to do and then ask Him to do the things that you cannot do.) Who should you pray for? (For others and for yourself) And when you pray for Him to do hard things for you, ask Him to remind you and the others to praise Him for answering your prayers and to tell others about the great things that He has done for you and them. When should you start to pray for God to do great things? (Pray when you or others have a need His help) Ask the children to raise their hands if they believe God can answer our prayers for Him to do great things. Then ask them if they will begin to pray to the Lord to do great things for missionaries, for preachers, for teachers and for all other witnesses so that many people will be saved from Hell. They can make suggestions for other great needs, too, but make them keep the suggestions specific or they will soon forget their suggestions. (Close by praying for them to be faithful in prayer.)