



7

God Answers Prayer

Key Theme

- God is sovereign over all things.

Key Passages

- Isaiah 36:13–18, 37:5–7, 37:14–20, 37:33–37

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe Hezekiah's dependence on God.
- Describe how God protected Jerusalem.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

page 5

Students will practice the memory verse by writing out the first two letters of each word. Then they will use those letters as a reference to say the verse to a friend.



Activity 1: God Answers Prayer Class Notes

page 5

Students will fill out the God Answers Prayer Class Notes as you study the lesson. Pass out the class notes before you begin to teach.



Studying God's Word

page 5

The southern kingdom of Judah was threatened by the mighty Assyrian empire. Trusting in the one true God for protection, good king Hezekiah went to the Lord in prayer. God answered Hezekiah's prayer in an amazing way!



Activity 2: Situation Station

page 11

Students will play a game similar to musical chairs. When the music stops, those seated are faced with a tragic situation. They consider two responses.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Print the Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Review Sheets for each student



GOD ANSWERS PRAYER CLASS NOTES

- Print one God Answers Prayer Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- God Answers Prayer Class Notes
- God Answers Prayer Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Print one Assyria-Judah Map from the Resource DVD-ROM for use during class.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Assyria-Judah Map



SITUATION STATION

- Print and cut out the three versions of Situation Station Game Guide Strips—Tragedy Strikes, Trusting Myself For Help, and Trusting God For Help from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Separate them into envelopes or containers.

- Situation Station Game Guide Strips in separate containers—Tragedy Strikes, Trusting Myself For Help, and Trusting God For Help
- Two chairs
- CD player



Memory Verse

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

► **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the lesson key passages along with this background.

As we begin this lesson, we are stepping back in time to the point where the kingdom was divided, but the focus is shifting to the Southern Kingdom. The first part of this quarter focused on how the Northern tribes turned from God and faced His judgment after He sent many prophets to warn them. Ultimately, the Assyrians conquered them and carried them off to foreign lands. As we talked about in Lesson 1, most of the kings of Judah led the people into idolatry, but a few sought to restore true worship of God.

One of these good kings was Hezekiah. Hezekiah was the thirteenth king in Judah and took the throne after his extremely wicked father, Ahaz. Ahaz had continued to worship false gods, even offering his children as sacrifices (2 Kings 16:1–4). He also looked to the king of Assyria for protection from the kings of Syria and Israel, offering him treasures from the house of God, rather than looking to God for deliverance (2 Kings 16:5–9). Hezekiah was nothing like his father—he “held fast to the Lord” and fought against the idolatry that plagued Judah (2 Kings 18:1–7). In fact, that passage tells us that “He trusted in the Lord God of Israel, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor who were before him.”

Here is where we meet the prophet Isaiah for the first time. Most people would recognize Isaiah as an Old Testament prophet, but few know a lot about his ministry. Isaiah ministered for over 50 years in Judah over the span of four kings (Isaiah 1:1). He was a contemporary of Hosea and Micah and penned some of the most lamentable judgments against Judah, as well as descriptions of the glories of redemption through the coming Messiah. One of Isaiah’s role during this period of history was to deliver a message of assurance to Hezekiah.

As Hezekiah began his reign in the Southern Kingdom in 726 BC, the Northern Kingdom of Israel was about to fall to the captivity of the Assyrians under Tiglath Pileser III (the king Hezekiah’s father Ahaz had made an alliance with) and Shalmaneser V. Next, Sennacherib took power in Assyria and began to expand his kingdom into Judah where Hezekiah had been reigning for 14 years (Isaiah 36:1). After taking several cities, Sennacherib sent to Jerusalem a delegation of officials, the Rabshakeh, along with a large portion of his army. The delegates delivered a message of boasting

from their king to Hezekiah: Whether you seek help from Egypt or God, I will conquer you and your God cannot protect you (Isaiah 36).

When the message was delivered to Hezekiah, he was distraught and sent a message to Isaiah, calling for prayer for deliverance from God (Isaiah 37:1–4). When the messengers delivered the threat to Isaiah, God gave them a message to deliver to Hezekiah—don’t fear Sennacherib; he will die in his own land (37:5–7). The Assyrian delegation returned to Jerusalem with another threat from Sennacherib and a boast against God (37:8–13). True to his character, Hezekiah cried out to God in a prayer that demonstrated his full reliance upon God, recognizing His sovereignty and mercy, and seeking God’s glory in the matter. Hezekiah knew that God could prevail and that He would be glorified as all the kingdoms of the earth would hear how He had delivered Jerusalem (37:14–20).

God is merciful and gracious. In response to Hezekiah’s humble request, God spoke a message of comfort and security through Isaiah. God would deliver Jerusalem from the Assyrians and strike down Sennacherib (Isaiah 37:21–35). God was about to display His sovereignty over the nations in a most dramatic way!

As Sennacherib’s great army, which numbered more than 185,000, camped near Jerusalem, there was surely fear and rumors flashing throughout the city. In 2 Chronicles 32:1–23, we learn that Hezekiah also worked to prepare a defense of the city, but he was not trusting in the might of the men of the city for deliverance, but called the people to trust in “the Lord our God, to help us and to fight our battles.” As God had promised, the Assyrian army did not even raise a shield or shoot an arrow at Jerusalem.

During the night, the Angel of the Lord moved through the camp of the Assyrians. As the camp awoke, they found quite a frightful scene—185,000 corpses lying in their midst! Imagine the fear and chaos that must have surged through the camp as those who were spared realized what had happened (Isaiah 37:36). Understanding his defeat, Sennacherib returned to Nineveh with his tail between his legs. Just as Isaiah had revealed, Sennacherib’s sons killed him as he was worshipping before his god, Nisroch (Isaiah 37:37–38). This was just another display of the absolute power of the one true God over the demons behind the false gods worshipped by the heathen nations.

In this account, we see the greatness of God displayed in His control over the affairs of man and His kindness to answer the prayers of those who trust in

Him and seek His glory. Hezekiah is surely an example we can look to, but God is the hero of the story. We can look to Hezekiah as an example of submitting to God in humility, not trusting in our own human strength, and seeking to bring God glory in all things. It is God who is the reason Hezekiah could do all of these things. God's glorious character is clearly on display in this account.

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

As you think about the structure of the Old Testament, it might be a little confusing. The account we are looking at in this lesson is actually referenced in at least three different places: Isaiah 36–37; 2 Kings 18–19; 2 Chronicles 32:1–26. In each we get a slightly different perspective, but all align and demonstrate the same truths about God's character. The political intrigue surrounding the transitions of the kings during this period is the stuff of an epic miniseries. Ahaz had been in league with kings of Assyria, Tiglath Pileser III and Shalmaneser V, and the son of the Assyrian king was now coming against the son of Ahaz. At the same time, Assyria was assaulting the Northern Kingdom while they were seeking help from other nations rather than God.

Hezekiah was the king reigning in the Southern Kingdom when the kings his father had cooperated with were sacking Samaria. Then, Shalmaneser's son Sennacherib moved on to wipe out Babylon and Egypt. So major portions of North Africa, Asia, and the Middle East were controlled by the Assyrian Empire. It was then that Sennacherib made his fatal mistake—he boasted against the Lord. God had ordained Sennacherib's reign and dominance of the people he and his fathers had conquered (Isaiah 9:11, 10:12–16, 37:26–27; Proverbs 21:1), but his pride brought judgment from God.

When you factor in the 30 other nations that were involved in these conflicts at this time and all of their leaders, you only begin to scratch the surface of the amazing tapestry of God's sovereignty in the affairs of the nations of the world over millennia. Most of us have a hard time planning dinner tonight and making sure everyone has clean socks and a ride to soccer

practice, so to even think of God as understanding and coordinating all of these events should drive us to our knees in praise of our awesome God. We can look to the words of God recorded in Isaiah 40 to get a sense of His awesome character and power:

Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket,
And are counted as the small dust on the
scales;

Look, He lifts up the isles as a very little thing.

And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn,

Nor its beasts sufficient for a burnt offering.

All nations before Him are as nothing,

And they are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless.

To whom then will you liken God?

Or what likeness will you compare to Him?
(Isaiah 40:15–18)

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

All-powerful, sovereign Lord, this is an encouraging account from the pages of Scripture. It reminds me that you are intimately involved in the affairs of men, from the politics of nations, to the tiniest newborn babe, even to every children's ministry worker and Bible teacher, like me. You weave together each life and event flawlessly to accomplish your perfect will. I am humbled to have a part in accomplishing your purpose for the students I will be teaching this week. May we all be convicted as we remember the times we have gone our own way instead of coming to you for help through prayer. Teach us to be like Hezekiah—full of hope in the face of hopelessness—because we know the one true God is on our side!



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will complete the Memory Verse Review Sheet. If time allows, have the students recite the verse together, to each other, or to you.

This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



God Answers Prayer Class Notes

MATERIALS

- God Answers Prayer Class Notes
- God Answers Prayer Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study the lesson.

We will be completing these class notes as we study the Bible passages. Do not work ahead. I'll let you know when to fill something in.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we complete our class notes today, we will learn that God is faithful to answer prayer. He demonstrated this truth when He answered King Hezekiah's prayer and protected the nation of Judah.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

When the kingdom was divided after King Solomon died, two nations formed. They were Israel and Judah. This was in about 975 BC. *Point out the division on the History of Israel Poster.*

We have moved quickly through the history of the Northern Kingdom—Israel. We saw that all of the kings were evil and that the Lord finally

- Use the History of Israel Poster included with your teacher kit to show your class where the biblical accounts you study chronologically fit into this timeline.

judged them by sending the Assyrians to take over the land and move most of the people out of the nation. God judged Israel through the Assyrians in 721 BC, about 250 years later. *Refer to Lesson 4 Lesson Theme Poster.*

Now we are going to study Judah—the Southern Kingdom. Both kingdoms were ruled by kings. Most of the kings of Judah were evil, but there were some good ones. Today we are going to study one of the good kings of Judah. His name was King Hezekiah. He was the thirteenth king in Judah. The Bible tells us that he trusted the Lord. He fought against idolatry—the false gods. The Bible says that there was no other king like him in Judah.

- ? Let's go over questions 1 to 3 on your class notes which talk about King Hezekiah. How will you complete those statements? *Assign students to read the class notes questions and discuss the answers. 1) Good. 2) Judah. 3) Bible.*

► Call on individual students to read and complete the statements on the class notes.

Hezekiah was a good king, and he did right in the eyes of the Lord. But he was having a hard time. You see, there was a very wicked Assyrian king, Sennacherib, who was threatening the people in the nation of Judah. Remember, Assyria was that nation that conquered the northern kingdom of Israel. And now the Assyrians were after King Hezekiah in Judah. Their message was not good for Hezekiah or Judah!

- ? Look at #4 on your class notes. How will you complete that? *Assign someone to read and complete the statement. Assyrian.*

So, let's read what happened! Turn to Isaiah 36. Isaiah was another prophet of God. We are going to start reading after the King of Assyria sent his messenger to Judah to threaten the people there. The messenger was speaking to the people of Judah for the Assyrian king, Sennacherib. Listen to what he said. Let's read Isaiah 36 verses 13–18 together. *Assign readers.*

Isaiah 36:13–18

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? Who was speaking here? *Isaiah 36:13. The Rabshakeh.*
- ? Who was the Rabshakeh speaking for? *Isaiah 36:13. The king of Assyria.*
- The Rabshakeh was the messenger for the King of Assyria. He usually traveled with an army of men. The Rabshakeh was speaking to the people of Judah and was hoping the people would see the army, get scared, and listen to him.
- ? How will you complete #5 on your class notes? Who was the Rabshakeh? *Messenger.*
- ? What language was the Rabshakeh speaking? *Isaiah 36:13. Hebrew.*
- ? Yes. This man certainly was clever, speaking in a language that all the people could understand. Who was this messenger from the king of Assyria warning the people in Judah about? Look in verse 14. *Isaiah 36:14. King Hezekiah, the king of Judah.*

? What did he tell the people about their king? *Isaiah 36:14. He would deceive them and would not be able to deliver them.*

That's right. He was warning the people that King Hezekiah would lie to them or deceive them. The Rabshakeh was lying about King Hezekiah. He was trying to get the people to turn away from King Hezekiah.

? What else was the king of Assyria telling the people of Judah? *Isaiah 36:15. Do not trust the Lord. Do not believe King Hezekiah.*

? And in Isaiah 36:16, what else did he tell the people? *Do not listen to King Hezekiah.*

That's right. The Rabshakeh told the people that King Hezekiah could not save them from the king of Assyria. He told them Hezekiah would deceive them, the Lord could not save them, they should NOT listen to Hezekiah. The king of Assyria wanted the people in Judah to leave their homes. He wanted to take them away as he had taken the people in the northern nation of Israel! *Refer to Lesson 4 Lesson Theme Poster.*

? The Rabshakeh, the man speaking for the king, also told them to beware of their king, Hezekiah. What did he say they should beware of? *Isaiah 36:18. That King Hezekiah would tell the people that the Lord would deliver them.*

The Rabshakeh was trying to scare the Israelites. He told them not to believe Hezekiah because the Lord would not be able to save them! I don't think he knew much about the Lord!

? Someone read #6 on your class notes. How will you complete that? *Assign a reader. Lord.*

Discover the Truth

The Rabshakeh—the messenger—of the king of Assyria brought this message. He wanted the people in Judah to turn away from God and their king, Hezekiah. He told the people not to listen to Hezekiah because he knew what good King Hezekiah would say. He knew that King Hezekiah would say, "The Lord will protect us. The Lord will deliver us." But the Assyrians were a mighty nation. They were mean and vicious. They had conquered many lands before this. They were wicked and did not serve the true God. They wanted the people of Judah to turn away from their king, their God, and their nation.

While Hezekiah was the king reigning in the southern kingdom of Judah, Sennacherib conquered Samaria to the north and moved on to wipe out Babylon and Egypt. Also, major portions of North Africa, Asia, and the Middle East were controlled by the Assyrian Empire. Notice how small Judah looks in the middle of the huge Assyrian empire. This looks really bad for Judah.

➤ Show the Assyria-Judah Map throughout the lesson as appropriate.

? How could Judah possibly stand up to such a mighty empire? Do you think King Hezekiah surrendered? *Yes/no.*



READ THE WORD

Isaiah 37:5–7

Well, we will find out what King Hezekiah did when he heard this news. Did he prepare his army? Turn to Isaiah 37. Let's read Isaiah 37:5–7 to find out. *Choose a student to read these verses aloud to the class.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Good. What is God's Word saying about King Hezekiah here? Let's find out by answering a couple of questions.

Observe the Text

? So, what did Hezekiah do? *Isaiah 37:5. Hezekiah sent his servants to the prophet Isaiah.*

Hezekiah turned to the prophet of God for advice first.

? What did Isaiah tell the king's men? *Isaiah 37:6. Do not be afraid of what you heard.*

? Whose Words was Isaiah speaking? *Isaiah 37:6. God's Words. Thus says the Lord.*

Isaiah assured King Hezekiah that there was no reason to be afraid of the King of Assyria. God was going to take care of the Assyrians in His own way.

Someone read #7 on your class notes. How will you answer it? *Assign reader. Isaiah.*

God's words from Isaiah must have been a comfort for Hezekiah. Remember, he did trust the true God. Isaiah told them they did not need to be afraid of King Sennacherib or Assyria.

? So, which of the roles of the prophet was Isaiah filling for God when he told King Hezekiah what God said? *Refer to the Roles of the Prophets Poster. He was speaking for God.*

But again the wicked king of Assyria sent a message. It was a letter telling Judah not to trust God. The letter said they would be taken by the king of Assyria. Assyria was a powerful nation and the letter said that the God of Israel could not help them. Assyria had taken many nations before and intended to take the little nation of Judah. What would King Hezekiah do? This was a dangerous and scary situation . . . or was it? Let's read Isaiah 37:14–20. *Assign readers.*

Isaiah 37:14–20

? What did Hezekiah do when he got the letter from Assyria? *Isaiah 37:14–15. He took it to the house of the Lord and he prayed to the Lord.*

? Someone read #8 on your class notes. How will you complete that? *Assign a reader. Prayed.*

? Hezekiah went to the house of the Lord to pray. How did he begin his prayer? Was he focused on himself? The people of Judah? The King of Assyria? The possible war that was soon to come? Someone read Isaiah 37:16. What was the beginning of Hezekiah's prayer about? *Isaiah 37:16. He started his prayer focused on God.*

? **And what did he say about God?** *You are the God of Israel. You are God. You alone are over all the kingdoms of the earth. You made heaven and earth.*

Hezekiah started his prayer by praising God and giving Him honor and glory for who He is. Hezekiah knew God was the Creator of all things. God made the heaven and the earth. He alone is God!

? Someone read #9 on the class notes. How will you complete that? *Assign reader. Praise.*

? King Hezekiah continued his prayer. How did he pray after he opened his prayer with praise? Look at Isaiah 37:17. *Isaiah 37:17. Hear me O Lord. Open your eyes. See and hear what Sennacherib wants to do.*

? King Hezekiah talked about the gods of the other nations. How did he describe these gods? What were these gods made of? It's in Isaiah 37:19. *Isaiah 37:19. Their gods were made of wood and stone. They were not gods, but the work of men's hands.*

Hezekiah knew that the false gods of other countries could offer no protection to anyone. Hezekiah worshipped, obeyed, and honored the true God. The God he worshipped was nothing like the other gods made of stone and wood.

? So, what was Hezekiah's request to God? Read Isaiah 37:20. *Isaiah 37:20. Save us from the wicked king.*

? And when God saved the little nation of Judah from the powerful nation of Assyria, what would the kingdoms of the earth know about God? *Isaiah 37:20. That He is the Lord, Him alone.*

Discover the Truth

Hezekiah knew where he had to go to get help. He went to Isaiah, the prophet of God, and then to the House of the Lord to pray! Hezekiah's prayer started with praise and worship to the holy, one, true God! Then he turned his prayer to what was happening to him. And in the end, Hezekiah prayed that victory for them would bring honor from all the kingdoms of the earth to the only God who could bring such a victory against such a mighty nation.



READ THE WORD

So, what happened next? Was there a battle? Did King Hezekiah finally have to prepare his army? Did the king of Assyria come in to threaten? Did God answer King Hezekiah's prayers? We'll have to read a little more to find out. Let's read Isaiah 37:33–37 together. *Divide the passage for students to read aloud.*

Isaiah 37:33–37

EXAMINE THE WORD

Now that is one amazing passage of Scripture! Let's look at it a little closer to make sure we understand what it says. Do your best to answer a few more questions about these verses.

Observe the Text

- ? Who is speaking in these first three verses? *Isaiah 37:33. The Lord.*
 - ? Who is the Lord speaking about? *Isaiah 37:33. The king of Assyria.*
 - ? Who is the Lord speaking through? It's a prophet. Go to Isaiah 37:21 for a hint. *Isaiah.*
 - ? What did the Lord say about the king of Assyria? *Isaiah 37:33. He shall not come into this city. He shall not shoot an arrow.*
 - ? And in Isaiah 37:34, what did the Lord say about the king of Assyria? *He would not come into this city but he would return home.*
 - ? Who would defend the city of Jerusalem? Who is speaking in these verses? Go back to Isaiah 37:33 if you can't remember. *The Lord.*
 - ? Go back to your class notes. Someone read #10. How will you answer that? *The Lord.*
 - ? Now move on to Isaiah 37:36. This tells us who the Lord sent to defend the city. Who was it? *Isaiah 37:36. The Angel of the Lord.*
 - ? Where did the Angel of the Lord go? *Isaiah 37:36. To the Assyrian camp.*
 - ? And what did the people find in the camp in the morning? *Isaiah 37:36. 185,000 dead Assyrians.*
 - ? What? The Angel of the Lord entered the camp. No one heard a thing. In the morning, all the Assyrians were dead. Who did God send to win this amazing victory? Someone read #11 for me. *Assign a reader. Angel of the Lord.*
 - ? Which attribute of God would describe what God did that night in the Assyrian camp? God was able to kill 185,000 soldiers silently in one night. Which attribute would that be? *Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. Omnipotent.*
- Yes, God is all-powerful. Nothing is too difficult for Him.

OMNIPOTENT

(Refer to Attributes Poster)

- Refer to the Assyria-Judah Map.

Discover the Truth

What a message! The king of Assyria was ready to take over Judah and the city of Jerusalem. But King Hezekiah, who loved and trusted the Lord, turned to God in humble prayer. And the Lord answered that prayer. Can you imagine? Those who were left from the Assyrian army woke up in the morning and found all those dead bodies! The Angel of the Lord was on Hezekiah's side. God is truly a great and powerful God, and He will answer the prayers of those who trust in Him. This victory belonged all to God. Hezekiah was trusting in God alone—and not in his own strength or power. And remember, Hezekiah was not interested in his own glory; he wanted all the nations to see how powerful the God he served really was!





Situation Station

MATERIALS

- Situation Station Game Guide
- Three versions of Situation Station Game Guide Strips—Tragedy Strikes, Trusting Myself For Help, and Trusting God For Help
- Two chairs
- CD player

INSTRUCTIONS

This is a game like musical chairs with a twist. Students walk around two chairs while the music plays. When the music stops, two students rush to sit down.

One of the students left standing will read a Tragedy Strikes Situation Strip. The seated students will read one of the reactions—either Trusting Myself or Trusting God.

Discuss the difference between the reactions. And the differences between trusting ourselves and trusting God. Continue the game as time allows.

*After the tragedy is read, you might say. **That's a tragedy!** When bad things happen, we're often tempted to rely on ourselves for an answer instead of on God. What might a typical reaction to a tragedy look like for someone who doesn't trust God? *Have one of the seated students read one of the strips from the Trusting Myself for Help Strips.**

Hmmm. That might be the way any of us would react. But is that how we should

react to trouble when we know that our God is all-powerful, sovereign, holy, and good? No! Let's see what our reaction might look like if we really trusted God and believed He is who He says He is. *Have the second seated student read one of the strips from the Trusting God For Help Strips.*

That response may not seem natural to us at first. But if we remember who God is, what God has done, and what He has promised, it would be natural to turn to Him first in our time of trouble. Let's read a few more examples and discuss them. *Repeat play as time permits.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Today we read about how Hezekiah responded to crisis when Judah was in danger. Instead of running from God, Hezekiah turned to God. He prayed to God with a pure heart, trusting God to save the people of Judah. He wanted God's name to be glorified in the victory. God wants us to turn to Him, too. He is the omnipotent, sovereign God of the universe. We can trust Him to answer our prayers and help us in times of trouble.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

This biblical account of King Hezekiah's reign in Judah told about the Assyrians, a very powerful nation at the time. This nation wanted to overthrow Judah and its capital, Jerusalem. Hezekiah was a good king who did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. He knew that God was

powerful enough to protect his people. So he went to the Lord in prayer when his nation was threatened. And God answered in a mighty way! The Lord sent His angel in the night to silently destroy much of the Assyrian army. In the morning, the survivors found all the dead and left quickly to return to their capital of Nineveh.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Hezekiah trusted the one true God. But this was a time when he could have been really scared. The Assyrians were known for taking over countries and cities. They were evil and wicked. They showed no mercy to their prisoners. Yet, when things looked pretty hopeless, Hezekiah didn't lose hope in God. He knew what to do. He turned to the Lord in prayer to help him.

And God was faithful, wasn't He? God sent a message through Isaiah that He would take care of things. And then He sent the Angel of the Lord to do just that!

We serve a very great God! He showed His kindness and His power by answering Hezekiah's prayer. Hezekiah did not forget who his God was. He knew that God was God alone. He recognized God's holiness and His power as Creator of heaven and earth. He approached God with respect and reverence and gave Him the honor that God alone deserves.

Hezekiah asked God to protect them so God would be glorified. He wanted all the kingdoms of the earth to know that he served the one true God.

We should do the same. When God answers your prayers tell your friends about it. Tell them that God is the one working in your life—it's not you! God wants all the glory and He should get it! When you tell your friends about God's goodness, you may be helping them know and understand better who God is.

► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the students to practice the memory verse this week.

? Based on everything we have talked about today, how will you complete #12 on your class notes? Someone read #12 on your class notes. How will you complete it? *Prayer.*



MEMORY VERSE

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.



GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God for being so powerful that no crisis is too big for Him to handle.
- Thank God that we can go to Him when we are in trouble.
- Pray for faith that we will stand and believe that God works all things together for our good because He is good.