Preschool–Grade 6

Hezekiah's Prayer

Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

Main point: God hears our prayers and sees our tears, so we can bring Him even the hardest news.
Bible passage: 2 Kings 20:1–11. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the LORD." *2 Kings 20:5 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), a whiteboard or large paper, a marker, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the board.

1. Opening game: Easy or Impossible? (5–10 minutes)

Read each thing. Kids stand up if a person could do it, and stay sitting if only God could do it. 1) Make a sandwich. 2) Make the sun come up. 3) Walk ten steps backward. 4) Make a shadow go backward when the sun is going down. 5) Tell a friend you are sorry. 6) Hear every prayer in the whole world at once. Say: "Today a man asked God for something impossible, and God did it."

2. Bible story: God Hears Hezekiah (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles to 2 Kings 20. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

Who Hezekiah was. Hezekiah the son of Ahaz became king of Judah (2 Kings 18:1). "He trusted in the LORD God of Israel" (18:5).

The hard news. Look up 2 Kings 20:1. Hezekiah was **sick unto death**, so sick he was going to die. The prophet Isaiah brought God's word: **Set thine house in order** means get your family and your kingdom ready.

Hezekiah prays. Look up 2 Kings 20:2–3. He turned his face to the wall and prayed. **I beseech thee** means I beg You. He asked God to remember how he had walked before Him in truth with a **perfect heart**, a whole heart, all the way for God. Then he **wept sore**, he cried very hard.

God answers fast. Isaiah had not even gone out into the middle court of the king's house when the word of the LORD came to him (20:4). **Look up 2 Kings 20:5. Captain** means leader. God heard the prayer, saw the tears and promised to heal him. On the third day he would go up to the house of the LORD.

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

More than he asked. Look up 2 Kings 20:6. God added fifteen years to his life and promised to deliver him and the city of Jerusalem from the king of Assyria. God said He would defend the city "for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake." Isaiah said, "Take a lump of figs," pressed figs, and they laid it on the **boil**, a painful swelling on the skin, and Hezekiah recovered (20:7).

The sign. Hezekiah asked for a **sign**, something God would show to prove His word (20:8). **Look up 2 Kings 20:9–10.** A **degree** here is a step on the dial. A **light thing** means an easy thing. Shadows go down as the day goes on, so Hezekiah asked for the hard one: back ten degrees. **Look up 2 Kings 20:11.** Isaiah cried to the LORD, and the LORD brought the shadow ten degrees backward on the dial of Ahaz. Isaiah 38:8 calls it "the sun dial of Ahaz." Ahaz was Hezekiah's father (2 Kings 16:20).

3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

Thinking questions (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. Hezekiah heard very bad news. The first thing he did was pray (20:2). What do you usually do first when you get bad news?
2. God said, "I have seen thy tears" (20:5). How does it help to know God sees when you cry?
3. God answered before Isaiah even got out of the middle court (20:4). Does God always answer that fast? What do we do while we wait?
4. Hezekiah asked for the hard sign, not the easy one (20:10). Why do you think he did that?
5. God said He would defend the city "for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake" (20:6). What does that tell us about why God helps us?

Recall questions

1. Who brought God's word to Hezekiah? *(Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, 2 Kings 20:1)*
2. How many years did God add? *(Fifteen, 20:6)*
3. On what was the shadow brought back? *(The dial of Ahaz, 20:11)*

4. Memory verse: Erase a Word (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **turn again** means go back; **captain** means leader; **thus saith** means this is what He says; **thy** means your; **behold** means look; **heal thee** means make you well. Read the verse on the board together. Erase two words and read it again. Keep erasing two words at a time until the board is empty and the class can say it alone. Then kids say it to a partner.

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Hezekiah prayed, and God heard him. God hears you too. God loves you. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, which means God came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). How do we obey the gospel? 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin; our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words (Acts 2:4). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.
This week: write down one hard thing and pray about it every day. Watch for how God answers.

6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point.

1. 2 Kings 18:5: In whom did Hezekiah trust? *(The LORD God of Israel)*
2. 2 Kings 20:1: Whose son was Isaiah? *(The son of Amoz)*
3. 2 Kings 20:2: Which way did Hezekiah turn his face to pray? *(To the wall)*
4. 2 Kings 20:4: Where had Isaiah not yet gone when God spoke to him? *(Out into the middle court)*
5. 2 Kings 20:5: On which day would Hezekiah go up to the house of the LORD? *(The third day)*
6. 2 Kings 20:6: From whose hand would God deliver the city? *(The king of Assyria)*
7. 2 Kings 20:7: What did they lay on the boil? *(A lump of figs)*
8. 2 Kings 20:10: What did Hezekiah call "a light thing"? *(For the shadow to go down ten degrees)*

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that You hear our prayers and see our tears. Help us pray first when the news is hard, and trust You while we wait. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks about someone who was sick and did not get better: answer gently. God always hears (2 Kings 20:5) and cares (1 Peter 5:7). Sometimes He heals right away, as He did for Hezekiah. Paul prayed three times about a hard thing, and God answered, "My grace is sufficient for thee" (2 Corinthians 12:8–9). God is always good, and He is always with us.

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post