Preschool–Grade 6

Hezekiah's Prayer

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: God hears me when I pray.
Bible passage: 2 Kings 20. Read 2 Kings 20:1–11 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears" *2 Kings 20:5 (KJV)*. **Thy** means your.
You need: a Bible, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child. If you have one: a flashlight.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at 2 Kings 20.

1. Opening game: Whisper and Hear (5 minutes)

Sit in a circle. Whisper a word to one child, like "figs" or "shadow," and let them whisper it to the next child, all around the circle. The last child says the word out loud. Then say: "Even a tiny whisper, God can hear! Today we will hear a true story about a man who prayed, and God heard him."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to 2 Kings 20. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Hezekiah was a king who trusted God (2 Kings 18:1, 18:5). *(Put a pretend crown on your head.)*

Hezekiah got very, very sick (2 Kings 20:1). *(Lay your head on your hands.)*

He turned his face to the wall (20:2). *(Turn your head to the side.)*

He prayed to God (20:2). *(Fold your hands.)*

He cried and cried (20:3). *(Rub your eyes.)*

Say it with me: "Hezekiah prayed to God!"

God heard him! God said, "I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears" (20:5). *(Cup your hand by your ear.)*

God said, "I will heal thee." That means, "I will make you well" (20:5). *(Stand up tall and strong.)*

Say it with me: "God hears me!"

They put figs on his sore, and he got well (20:7). *(Pat your arm gently.)*

God gave a sign. He made a shadow go back, back, back (20:11). *(Take ten tiny steps backward.)*

Say it with me: "God can do anything!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. What did Hezekiah do when he was sick? *(He prayed to God, 2 Kings 20:2)*
2. Did God hear him? *(Yes! "I have heard thy prayer," 20:5)*
3. Which way did the shadow go? *(Backward, 20:11)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "God said, 'I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears.' That means, 'I heard you pray, and I saw you cry.'" Teach the motions: cup your hand by your ear for "heard thy prayer," and touch under your eyes for "seen thy tears." Say the verse with the motions three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "2 Kings 20:5" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
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.

6. Activity: Shadow Back (5–10 minutes)

If you have a flashlight, shine it on the wall and let each child make a hand shadow. Move the light so the shadow moves, and say: "Only God could make the sun's shadow go back!" Then give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw Hezekiah praying, with a big ear above him to show God hears. While they color, ask: "What did Hezekiah do? Who heard him?"

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, that You hear me.
Thank You that You see when I cry.
Help me pray to You. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story calm and gentle. Let every child do the backward steps. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child is worried about being sick: say, "When you are sick, you can pray to God like Hezekiah did. God hears you, and He loves you."

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