Preschool–Grade 6

Hezekiah's Prayer

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: God hears our prayers, so we can bring Him everything.
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, 6 paper strips, a marker, masking tape, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the 6 paper strips (see part 4). Put ten lines of masking tape on the floor, one big step apart, for the Shadow Steps game (part 6). Put bookmarks in your Bible at 2 Kings 20:5 and 2 Kings 20:11.

1. Opening game: Forward and Back (5 minutes)

Kids stand in a line on one side of the room. Call out steps and count them together: "Two steps forward!" "One step back!" "Three steps forward!" "Ten tiny steps back!" Anyone who goes the wrong way starts again. Then ask: *Is it easy to walk backward?* Say: "Walking backward is slow. But today we will hear about something that went ten steps backward that no person could move: a shadow! And God did it because He heard a man's prayer."

2. Bible story: God Hears Hezekiah (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to 2 Kings 20, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

Hezekiah was the king of Judah (2 Kings 18:1). He trusted in the LORD God of Israel (18:5). One day Hezekiah got very, very sick. He was so sick he was going to die (2 Kings 20:1).

God sent the **prophet** Isaiah to him. A prophet is a man who tells people what God says. Isaiah said, "Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live" (20:1). That means, "Get your family and everything ready. You are going to die."

What did Hezekiah do? He turned his face to the wall, and he **prayed** to the LORD (20:2). He asked God to remember how he had walked with God in truth, with his whole heart (20:3). And Hezekiah cried very hard. The Bible says he "wept sore" (20:3).

Isaiah started to leave. Before he even got out to the middle **court**, an open yard in the king's house, God spoke to him again (20:4). God said, "Turn again." That means, "Go back!"

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

The story continues: **Read 2 Kings 20:5 from your Bible.** Point to the words "I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears." Say: "God heard every word Hezekiah prayed. God saw every tear he cried. And God said, 'I will heal thee,' that means, 'I will make you well.'"

God made Hezekiah a big promise. He would add **fifteen** more years to his life (20:6). On the third day Hezekiah would go up to the house of the LORD (20:5). And God would keep Hezekiah and his city, Jerusalem, safe from the king of Assyria (20:6).

Isaiah said, "Take a lump of figs." They put the figs on Hezekiah's **boil**, a sore, swollen place on his skin, and Hezekiah got well (20:7)!

Hezekiah asked, "What shall be the sign that the LORD will heal me?" A **sign** is something God shows to prove His word is true (20:8). Isaiah asked him, "shall the shadow go forward ten degrees, or go back ten degrees?" (20:9). A **degree** here is a step. Hezekiah said that a shadow going down is easy. He said, "let the shadow return backward ten degrees" (20:10).

Isaiah cried out to the LORD, and God made the shadow go **backward** ten steps on the **dial** of Ahaz (20:11). The Bible calls it a "sun dial" (Isaiah 38:8). Only God could do that!

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. What did Hezekiah do when he heard he was going to die? *(He turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD, 2 Kings 20:2)*
2. What did God say He had heard and seen? *("I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears," 20:5)*
3. How many years did God add to Hezekiah's life? *(Fifteen, 20:6)*
4. What did they put on Hezekiah's boil? *(A lump of figs, 20:7)*
5. Which way did the shadow go for the sign? *(Backward, ten degrees, 20:11)*

4. Memory verse: Prayer Steps Verse (5 minutes)

Tape the 6 strips up in order like steps: *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.* 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 together. Then take one strip away and read it again. Keep taking strips away, one each time, until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.

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

5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "God heard Hezekiah's prayer, and He hears you too. You can tell Him anything, even when you are scared or sad. God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: '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 we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (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.
This week: when you are sick, scared or sad, pray first. Tell God about it, because He hears you (2 Kings 20:5).

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Hezekiah word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/hezekiah-word-search), crossword, maze or worksheet, the craft (vbshq.com/crafts/hezekiah-craft), or **Shadow Steps:** one child is the "shadow" and stands on the first tape line. The class counts as the shadow walks forward down all ten lines. Then everyone asks, "Shall the shadow go back ten degrees?" and the shadow walks backward over all ten lines while the class counts down from ten. At the end, the class says together, "God heard Hezekiah's prayer!" Give every child a turn, and ask one question from part 3 before each turn.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that You hear our prayers and see our tears. Help us come to You first when we are sick, scared or sad. 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 our prayers (2 Kings 20:5), and He cares for us (1 Peter 5:7). Sometimes He heals right away, like He did for Hezekiah, and sometimes His answer is different. 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