

Lesson 8

## Good King Hezekiah



**Theme:** Faith — Depending on God

### Sunday Morning Lesson

#### Pre-Class Activity

**Bible Facts:** Measure What You Know!

**Memory Verse:** Give each student an opportunity to say the Memory Verse for the class. When each one completes it, the students may show their approval as directed by the teacher. Help students who struggle with the memory work be successful. Give guests an opportunity to say the Memory Verse. Continue the display described in Lesson 4. See page 11 of this Guide for a sample display.

#### Prayer

#### Teaching Today's Lesson

1. For non-reading students, read 2 Kings 18:3-7. Have reading students find and mark 2 Kings 18:3 in the classroom Bibles.
2. Ask students to bring the Bibles and move to the Bible story area.
3. Establish the setting of the lesson by asking a student to point to the place on the time line when today's events took place.
4. Further establish the setting by showing a map of the Divided Kingdom. Discuss whether today's lesson pertains to Israel and Judah.
5. Introduce Lesson Graphics and other props using the "God's Rule Scale" as described on page 10 of this Guide.
6. Tell the story using the *Measuring by God's Rule Lesson Graphics* and other props such as a rubber snake on a pole, and cut-outs of a sun, moon, and stars.
7. Tell the story and teach the lesson emphasizing the following scenes and points, tailored to the students' ages:
  - In the Wilderness, Moses had the Israelites look at the bronze snake on a pole to keep from dying from snake bites.
  - Now, people of Judah were leaving God to serve idols, including that same bronze snake.

- King Hezekiah chose to serve and obey the Lord.
- Sennacherib, king of Assyria, had his army attack Judah.
- Hezekiah paid Sennacherib silver from the temple and palace and gold from the temple doors to stop the attack.
- Working with the prophet Isaiah, Hezekiah prayed to the Lord to save Judah from the Assyrian army, and God did so.
- Because he was sick, Hezekiah prayed to God; and Isaiah told him that he would live 15 more years.
- Hezekiah's son Manasseh was a wicked king who worshiped idols and the sun, moon, and stars.
- King Josiah, Manasseh's grandson, loved and obeyed the Lord, but God still had to punish Judah for all their evil.
- We can obey God, even though everyone around us is doing wrong.



8. Collect several props and costumes to be used in reenacting the lesson—a rubber snake on a pole; cut outs of sun, moon, and stars; five crowns and kings' robes for children. Teach the lesson using an "Up and Down" theme. Designate five students as Judah's Kings—Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh, Amon, Josiah. Briefly tell the story of each king and have students decide whether a king is UP or DOWN. UP kings stand up, while DOWN kings must sit on the floor. Help students discover what makes a king UP or DOWN, emphasizing his decision and his influence on the nation.

*Note:* Hezekiah faced a huge Assyrian army. You may enhance this lesson with photos or a slide show of Assyrian reliefs. An Internet search for "Assyrian reliefs" should point you toward useful information and photographs.

9. Read the account of Manasseh ruling in Judah from 2 Kings 21:1-16. With the help of students, make a list on the marker board of all the evil things Manasseh did. Measure Manasseh by God's rule.

**Things to Get or Do  
for Sunday Morning**

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Lesson 8

## Good King Hezekiah



**Theme:** Faith — Depending on God

### Wednesday Night Lesson

#### Pre-Class Activity

**Bible Facts:** Measure What You Know!

**Memory Verse:** Repeat the Sunday Morning memory work activity for any students who were not present. Talk with all students about what the verse(s) tell us about God.

#### Prayer

#### Starter

It was an especially bad day in Room 403 at school. It was a couple of days before spring break and most kids had spring fever. It was hard to think about school work, and the teacher that day was a substitute. The students were going wild. Everyone was talking and some were shouting. A couple of guys were arm wrestling. Three girls were dropping their books on the floor over and over. Several guys in the back were having a spit wad fight.

The substitute teacher tried to get order in the room. He spoke loudly and then yelled, but no one paid attention. The teacher went to the back of the room to take the straws used in the spit wad fight, but as soon as he walked away the guys pulled out more straws and resumed their battle. The teacher took the books away from the girls who were dropping them on the floor, and one of the girls cursed at him.

What should you do in this situation? Not being in charge, there may not be much you can do to change the behavior of other students. But there is something important you can do. You can sit quietly in your seat and follow the teacher's instructions as much as you can. Someone will probably make fun of you and try to get you to join in the free-for-all, and you will be tempted to be like all the others.

Judah's king Hezekiah faced a similar situation. His father was a wicked king and people around him were wicked. Hezekiah decided to be a good king even in the middle of evil.

#### Illustrations and Applications

1. **Objective:** *Show how sin takes us down and obeying God takes us up.*

Help students to retell the UPs and DOWNs about Judah's kings from their Sunday morning lesson. Have several behaviors printed on cards, some good and some bad. Have

a student select a card and tell whether the behavior will take you up or down. If all students agree on this, have everyone sit down or stand up accordingly. If it takes you down, talk with the class about what can be done to go up.

2. *Objective: Illustrate the importance of listening to and relying on God.*

From 2 Kings 18-19, retell the account of Hezekiah's decision about whom he would rely on. The Assyrians tried to pull him one way while Isaiah encouraged him to go another. Hezekiah went back and forth about what to do. To make application, arrange students in two lines facing each other. Assign each line to encourage in a way opposite the other line. Select a student to walk slowly between the two lines listening to the opposing encouragements. Assignments may be:

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| Skipping Bible class and worship | Going to Bible class and worship     |
| Lying to cover up a mistake      | Telling the truth even when it hurts |
| Hitting someone who hit you      | Choosing not to hit back             |

3. *Objective: To make personal application of making hard decisions.*

Have several situations in which young people might find themselves facing hard decisions. Can his or her decision lead others to do right, too?

Ideas for situations:

- Your friend invites you to spend the night on Saturday night and then spend Sunday at the lake with their family ...
- Nancy is mad at Kira and tells everyone to ignore her and not talk to her ...
- Kathy took a Social Studies test on the Tuesday Lisa was absent. Kathy told Lisa she would give her all the questions and answers ...
- A new kid in school keeps saying nasty things to you when he passes you in the hall ...
- Your friend from church started hanging out with a new friend at school. Your church friend started using bad language like the new friend does ...
- Your big brother told you he was going to sneak out of the house and go to a party your parents had told him not to go to ...

**Measuring Kings:** Measure Jotham (2 Kings 15:32-36)

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Things to Get or Do for Wednesday Night</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>
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