

“[The Lord] will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the lord is the key to this treasure.” Isaiah 33:6 (NIV)

Have you ever had one of those seasons in life where everything seems to be going wrong, and you can't figure out why? You've tried to live a life God will bless, but suddenly you're in a tight spot. Why me? you cry out. King Hezekiah was in that kind of a place when we meet him in 2 Kings 18-19 and 2 Chronicles 32. He'd lived a godly life, resisted pressure to serve the ungodly king of Assyria, yet found his kingdom threatened and with the weight of the world on his shoulders. What Hezekiah did in a tight spot is a model for us. Let's Talk It Over. (Before you begin the lesson, or sometime this coming week, read Hezekiah's story in 2 Kings 18-19 and 2 Chronicles 32.)

OPEN YOUR GROUP WITH A PRAYER. THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE – SELECT THE POINTS YOU WANT TO DISCUSS.

1. God sent Isaiah (the spiritual leader) to Hezekiah (the political leader) regarding the impending destruction of Judah by a foreign nation. Consider the promise of God in Isaiah 33:6 given to Hezekiah and Judah. What does God say he will provide? What condition is vital to receive the promise?

Hezekiah received the letter [of bad news and impending attack]...and went up to the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD. Then Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said “O LORD God of Israel...You are God, You alone... You have made heaven and earth. Incline Your ear, O LORD, and hear...” 2 Kings 19:14-16 (NKJV)

2. Before the man of God planned what to do, he prayed. Why is it hard to pray before we take action? In a crisis, why is it important to worship God before bringing our needs before him?

“...a rich store of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge...” Isaiah 33:6 (NIV)

3. Share stories from your life or another's, when it was clear that you were receiving from God's rich store.

“...the fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure.” Isaiah 33:6 (NIV)

4. What does it mean to fear the Lord? Discuss the statement, “When you fear the Lord, you have nothing else to fear.”

5. Later this week, plan to revisit this prayer and pray it again. How will you incorporate this as a regular practice in your faith life? [If you miss the video, see the prayer under Leader Notes on page 2.]

Diving Deeper (optional)

“Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz asked the Lord for help, and he sent an angel that killed every soldier and commander in the Assyrian camp. Sennacherib returned to Assyria, completely disgraced. Then one day he went into the temple of his god where some of his sons killed him.” 2 Chronicles 32:20-21

1. King Sennacherib of Assyria mocked God, comparing him with other gods. He mocked Hezekiah for believing his God would come to his aid. What happened to Sennacherib after Isaiah and Hezekiah prayed in 2 Chronicles 32:20-21?
2. Hezekiah would learn that this season had been appointed in his life in order to demonstrate God's faithfulness. Share a memory of a time, a moment, or a season in your life you later realized had been appointed by God.

REVIEW ANY ASSIGNMENTS OR COMMITMENTS MADE DURING YOUR PREVIOUS MEETING.