

LESSON 6

KING HEZEKIAH

OBJECTIVES

1. To have the heart that we can never do “enough” for God.
2. To have a heart of humility in our achievements.
3. To have the courage to stand up for God in conduct and word among our peers.

MEMORY VERSE

“He trusted in the LORD God of Israel, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor who were before him.”

(2 Kings 18:5)

PRAYER

Dear God, thank You for bringing us safely through another week to worship together in Your name. Thank You for all the blessings that You have given us and for allowing us to be able to make achievements for Your glory. All that we have achieved is because of You, God. May You continue to guide us and keep us humble in our daily lives.



Overview

1. Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

- a. Hezekiah Keeps the Passover
- b. Hezekiah Prays to God
- c. Hezekiah Becomes Proud

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—the Holy Bible

3. Life Application

- a. The Courage to Stand Up for God
- b. Trusting in Hard Times
- c. How Much Time Do I Have for You, God?

4. Activity—Time Capsule; Class Scheduler



Background Knowledge for Teachers

No King like Hezekiah

Hezekiah was son to Ahaz and possibly served in a co-regency with his father before becoming king in 716 BC. For many, the most memorable event of King Hezekiah’s life is his prayer to the LORD upon contracting a terminal illness and the LORD’s response in the form of a miracle which caused the shadow to go backward 10 degrees. Indeed, Hezekiah’s reign was filled with great miracles, and he also achieved both social and religious victories. Thus, the Bible records Hezekiah as prospering in all his works (2 Chr 32:30). It is easy to forget that King Hezekiah’s “golden age” of reign was amidst a period of evil, and his reign itself was bookended by the evil reigns of his father, Ahaz, and his son, Manasseh. Family religious idolatry aside, Hezekiah also reigned in a period of political turmoil. With Judah’s own brethren in the north being captured by the Assyrians (2 Ki 17:6-41), Hezekiah had to face a trial, the likes of which no other faithful king of Judah before him had faced. Moreover, his contraction of the terminal illness occurred at the same time Assyria was threatening to take Jerusalem—how much pressure there must have been on this king of Judah!

“YHWH is my strength”

The name Hezekiah means “YHWH is my strength/strengthens me.” We often interpret Hezekiah’s life as one that can be divided into two periods: pre-illness (fourteen years of reign) and post-healing by God (promised additional fifteen years). Many view the latter period as if Hezekiah were living on “borrowed time,” often citing the birth of Manasseh and his subsequent evil reign for fifty-five years as an example of Hezekiah’s thereafter wayward walk of faith. However, the prayer that Hezekiah prayed (2 Ki 20:2-4; Isa 38:2-6) did not directly ask

for his life to be spared or lengthened. In fact the Hebrew word for prayer used, *tefilah*, denotes self-reflection or self-judgment rather than the English connotation of imploring or beseeching that is often associated with “prayer” today. It is also important to note that the LORD’s answer implies Hezekiah had many matters on his mind apart from his life, including the state of the nation of Judah and the city, as it was about to be laid siege upon by the king of Assyria. With no heir, and his leadership possibly in question, this prayer is likely to be just as much a prayer of trust as it is a prayer of bitterness—trust that God would not leave His children without a leader and shepherd. Indeed, even within the oral Torah, there is discussion that Hezekiah was in a circumstance where he could have possibly been the Messiah to the people. He is considered as one who restored the study of the Law in schools, strengthening not only his relationship, but also the relationship of the people, with the LORD (Sanhedrin, 94b, 99a). In 2 Chronicles 32:25, the chronicler provides retrospectively the ultimate outcome of Hezekiah’s added fifteen years, saying that because of his pride, he did not make the most of his time. As a test from God to see what was truly in his heart, God withdrew from Hezekiah, and truly, Hezekiah in his latter reign did succumb to pride (2 Chr 32:31; 2 Ki 20:12-18). Hezekiah’s life serves as a sober example to all servants of God that no matter how great the works, God will always look at and test the heart—He will ask an account of the time that He has given us.



Reaching Out to Your Students

The life of Hezekiah is deeply seated in critical points of Jewish history and nuances of his story can be lost if not placed within their historical context. For the benefit of the students’ understanding, the lesson will focus on three aspects of his life: 1) his restoration of temple worship, including the Passover, amidst the faithlessness of Judah’s sister nation Israel; 2) his healing; and 3) his pride in showing off his treasures. In their pre-adolescent years, it is important for students to have ingrained in their Christian identity the importance and necessity of standing apart from others and standing up for God in their actions and speech. Hezekiah was a king who knew how to do this from day one of his reign. However, when reflecting on Hezekiah’s life, students can also learn the importance of a lifelong service to God. This means that they should not hold the concept that they have done “enough” for God, whether in holy work or in daily conduct. Furthermore, there will be “sacrifices” they will have to make for the sake of being a Christian. These are two critical concepts that can be difficult to explain in a concrete manner, so personal testimonies and analogies to their school life can help students understand the two concepts.



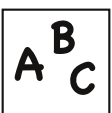
Opener

5 Minutes

Ask the students what their favorite hobbies are; some may say sports, drawing, or reading. Now, pose this hypothetical question: “If they could meet one person who was really good at their hobby, who would it be and why?”

The students will probably list classmates, teachers, parents, or famous athletes or celebrities, all of whom possess a talent the students believe is unique. Now, what if the Bible told us that there was one person unlike any other who shared the same role. Surely there are many, many things we can learn from him! That person is King Hezekiah (refer to the memory verse). Today, we will learn about three short stories from King Hezekiah’s life:

1. His first day as king, and how he showed that he was someone who trusted in God
2. A time he trusted in God, even when there was a lot of pressure around him
3. A time when he failed and forgot God



Vocabulary

siege: an act of war during which the enemy cuts off all of your supplies (food, water) to starve you and take over your city

bitterly: (with reference to the Hebrew meaning) an attitude of being sad and crying loudly

Passover: the annual feast the people of God kept to remember how God saved and delivered them from Egypt

consecrate: to make holy



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet to the students now. Instruct students to complete it as you go over the lesson, pausing where necessary to allow the students to write down the answers. At the end of the Bible story section, go over the worksheet with the students for completion and correctness. Keep a copy of the worksheet for reference.

We have learned about many kings this year, but today we will learn of a king of Judah who trusted God like no other king of Judah had done, before or after him, and his name is Hezekiah.

If you were given all the power and money to do what you wanted at your school, what would you do? [Allow students to write their answers on the worksheet.] It's easy to think only about ourselves or only wanting to have fun when we have all that wealth and power. Yet, that was not what King Hezekiah did. Let us turn to 2 Chronicles 29:3.

In the first month of the first year of his reign, Hezekiah thought of God. Hezekiah wanted to open the doors of the house of God, because his father, who worshipped idols when he was king, had shut up those doors. So, we can see that Hezekiah was thinking about God and the people. He knew how important it was to make sure the people had a strong and healthy relationship with God. So, he told all the priests and Levites to consecrate themselves, or make themselves holy, because there was going to be an even bigger task that he wanted them to do. He wanted to trust in God and he wanted the people to trust in God as well.

Let's read 2 Kings 18:4-6. One of the commandments Hezekiah kept was the Passover, an important feast that was supposed to remind the people of how God had saved them from the Egyptians so long ago. How did Hezekiah bring back Passover worship? Let's look at 2 Chronicles 30:1-2. Wow! This is something no king of Judah had ever done before, inviting not only the people in Judah, but also the people in Israel to worship God in the temple in Jerusalem and to keep the Passover. This was what made Hezekiah so special. He wasn't worried about power or money; he just wanted to make sure all of the people of God were worshipping God the right way. So, this was a great way he showed that he trusted in God.

Fourteen years later... Hezekiah still trusted in God, but this time he was facing many troubles and growing pressure from everywhere. First, the kingdom of Israel had

been taken by a nation called Assyria because they would not worship God faithfully. Now, Assyria was coming for Judah, coming straight for the gates of Jerusalem! Hezekiah not only had enemies heading towards the city, he had also become very sick, so sick that the prophet Isaiah told him that he would die! Making matters worse, the Assyrian soldiers went to Jerusalem and tried to scare the people in Jerusalem, saying that God would not be able to protect them from such a great nation as Assyria. Hezekiah was so worried that he tore his clothes and cried, what if the people left God again? What if they stopped coming to the temple, or stopped keeping the Passover or any of the other commandments of God? That would be horrible. So, what does a person who trusts in God do when he feels like there is nothing he can do? He prays! Let's read Hezekiah's prayer in Isaiah 38:3-4. God heard Hezekiah's prayer; not only did He heal Hezekiah, He also delivered the people from the Assyrians! Praise God!

Unfortunately, Hezekiah, satisfied with all that he had already done for God, became proud, only seeing all the great treasures he had as a king and not remembering that all of this was in fact from God (2 Chr 32:25). One day, another great nation called Babylon came to see him, and to boast about his greatness, he showed them all his treasures and riches. Thus, God spoke to Hezekiah through the prophet Isaiah that, one day, all the treasures and some of his sons would be taken away from Jerusalem by the same Babylon because Hezekiah forgot that he served God, and that everything came from God.

During his lifetime, Hezekiah achieved many wonderful things for God and followed God obediently, but he also made many mistakes due to his weaknesses. We can learn many lessons from both his strengths and his weaknesses, and remember always what it means to trust in God.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

The Holy Bible is inspired by God and is the standard for Christian living.

We can learn from Hezekiah's story as it has been recorded in the Bible. His story contains many teachings from which we can learn. Hezekiah started out his reign as king on a positive note, but ended it on a negative note. In our servitude to God as His faithful followers, we have the Bible as a guide to how we should act in certain situations and how we should live our lives as His children. Whenever we have a question or problem, we can always turn to God in prayer and to the Bible.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **What was the first thing Hezekiah did as king?** Open and repair the doors of the house of God.
2. **What else did he do to repair the people's relationship with God?** He removed the high places, broke pillars, cut down wooden images, broke to pieces the bronze serpent, consecrated the priests and Levites, and commanded all of Judah and Israel to keep the Passover.
3. **Which nation came to attack Jerusalem?** Assyria.
4. **Did Hezekiah ask to be healed in his prayer?** No.
5. **How did Hezekiah trust in God?** He held fast to God, not departing from Him, and kept His commandments.
6. **What happened to Hezekiah's heart after he was healed?** Hezekiah became proud.
7. **What is one pressure you face today, for which you know you need to trust in God?** Answers may vary.



Life Application

10 Minutes

THE COURAGE TO STAND UP FOR GOD

Hezekiah's move to re-establish true worship for Judah and Israel was something no one before him had attempted, and it was a goal towards which he worked from the beginning of his reign. The courage to stick to what is right in God's eyes can be a challenge, but it is a challenge the students must embrace from their youth.

Draw two columns on the whiteboard, or a piece of paper, and ask students to list out all the bad habits of their school friends (e.g., swearing, cheating on tests, making fun of the teacher, bullying fellow students, watching too much TV, addicted to games, etc.). Write these in one column. In the other column, write the exact opposite of these bad habits and pose this scenario to the students: If you were a new student who had just joined that school, and did all the opposites of the bad habits, would the other students accept you or make fun of you?

1. How many of you would be courageous enough not to join in on the bad habits of your classmates?
2. What would God want you to do as His heavenly child?

The point is not to have no friends at all or to become a social outcast. However, remind them of the example of Hezekiah and how much courage he must have needed to do what was different from his father and from those around him, but what he knew was right. Refer to the fourth verse of the hymn "Make Me a Channel of Blessings." Share from experience how much harder this will get once the students start junior high school, and emphasize how it is imperative that they start building up this courage and trust in God now.

TRUSTING IN HARD TIMES – HOLD ON, NEVER DEPART

Your students are starting to develop their own sense of independence and with this development comes burdens and pressures. Referring to Hezekiah's efforts to trust in God, remind them that the journey of faith will not always be an easy one. Sometimes, like Hezekiah, we will cry because we don't know what to do next. At these times, we must remember that God is by our side (1 Pet 5:7). Remind the students that at times like this, they need to hold on to a fundamental action—prayer—and never depart from this. In addition, if the students ever need someone with whom to talk, their parents and RE teachers are always willing to listen.

HOW MUCH TIME DO I HAVE FOR YOU, GOD?

Ask the students to color in the first test tube based on how much God has given them (hint: it should be OVERFLOWING). Now, ask them to color in the second test tube with how much work they've done for God, whether in church or in their Christian conduct. There really is no comparison. Read Psalm 116:12. Students must constantly have this question in the back of their heads. God gave Hezekiah fifteen more years to serve Him, and while none of the students have even lived for fifteen years, they can determine to live the next fifteen years, and onward, for God, putting Him first in their lives always.

Refer to both activities for further expansion on the life application. Experiences on how teachers have grown in their love and service to God from a young age are also highly encouraged.

Life Application Worksheet Scenario Answers

Being Different

1. Yes! Joseph knew he had to be a Christian outside of church and in front of his friends—this requires courage. He also asked Colin to church. Joseph had fears, but that is natural.
2. Responses may vary. Possible responses: not swearing, not gossiping, the clothes they wear, what shows they watch or games they play, what they do on Friday nights and Saturdays, what they do during winter and summer breaks (spiritual convocation)
3. Joseph can be more courageous by praying as he would normally, instead of in fear that someone would catch him praying. He can also be more courageous by asking God for the courage and wisdom to explain to Colin about prayer from the Bible.

Miss Popular

1. No, it is not wrong that Caroline brought her bag to school.
2. The compliments she received, and her heart wanting to show it off even more.
3. She can remember that she received the bag as a gift from her parents. She did not do anything to earn it nor did she pay for it, so there is no reason to show it off. If and when others compliment her, she can thank them, but not take it to heart or let it make her even more boastful.



Activity

Time Capsule: Keeping Hold of Our Trust in God; Class Scheduler

10-15 Minutes

1. Time Capsule

Objective: To strengthen our resolve to trust in God and to continue to have courage to do what is right in God's eyes.

Materials

- A box with a lock on it
- Stickers
- Paper
- Pen

Instructions

1. Ask the students to write a letter to their future self that includes a verse that they read in today's lesson. In the letter, the students have to encourage their future selves not to be bogged down by any pressures or to be too timid to stand out as a Christian. Rather, they must make the best use of their time and remember the teaching of Hezekiah and how important it is to trust in God. (Teachers can write their own letter, too!)
2. Seal the letters with a sticker.
3. Lock the letters in a box, and label it with a sign that says, "Do not open until [one year after today's date]." Teachers can set reminders in their calendars.
4. When the date on the box arrives, return the letters to the students. If a student has moved to a different church, it is encouraged to mail the letter to the student.

2. Class Scheduler – Duty for God

Objective: To teach students that there is always something that they can do for God at any time and that they should be constantly serving God.

For the activity, students will create a clock that can be used to list out church duties that the students can participate in on any given Sabbath. Each clock hand, which will have the student's name on it, will always be pointed at a particular duty each week. A similar clock can be created with good Christian behavior that students can practice at home written on the face.

Materials

- Cardstock
- Markers
- Brass fasteners
- Scissors

Instructions

1. Ask students to brainstorm various ways they can serve God in church (e.g., say grace, clean the classroom, lead prayer, lead hymns, help the elderly members, etc.; if done on a personal basis, students can brainstorm good Christian behavior, e.g., "do not swear," "preach to friend," etc.)
2. Write the different works around the clock face, one for each hour.
3. Write each student's name on the clock hands and decorate.
4. Using the scissor, poke a hole through the center of the clock and through the circles on the clock hands.
5. Take the brass fastener and fasten together the clock hands and the clock face.
6. Arrange each hand to point to a specific duty for the students to carry out that week.
 - a. The teacher can determine how many clocks to make and how many hands to put on each clock, but if there is more than one clock, each clock should have the same set of duties written on it. Students can be divided between each clock so that it allow for duties to be assigned in pairs or groups.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. Held fast, did not depart, kept God's commandments
2. Showed all the treasures to the Babylonians
3. Answers may vary.
4. Answers may vary.
5. Answers may vary. Examples:
 Year 1 "I'm really nervous about starting as King but I want my people to have a good relationship with the true God!"
 Year 14 "I don't know what to do, I feel so sad and can't do this on my own..."
 Year 29 "I've lived a great life; look at how rich I am!"

KING HEZEKIAH

Write 2 Chronicles 29:3 below.

"In the first year of his reign, in the first month, he opened the doors of the house of the LORD and repaired them."

If I Were a King... My "To Do" List [2 Kings 18:4; 2 Chronicles 30:1]

ME	KING HEZEKIAH
1. Build a house	1. Removed the high places
2. Eat all my favorite foods	2. Broke the sacred pillars
3. Invite all my friends over	3. Cut down the wooden image
4. Lock up all the bullies/enemies	4. Broke in pieces the bronze serpent
5. Etc.	5. Called all of Judah and Israel to keep the Passover

How did King Hezekiah trust in the Lord? [2 Kings 18:6]

1. Held fast to the Lord
2. Did not depart from following Him
3. Kept His commandments

Write down Hezekiah's prayer [Isaiah 38:3] and God's response [Isaiah 38:4-6]

King Hezekiah's Prayer

Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what is good in Your sight.

God's Response

I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will add to your days fifteen years. I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria, and I will defend this city.

Draw the pressures Hezekiah was facing around him.

- health issues
- worried that his people would not follow him in worshipping God and instead worship false idols
- enemies attacking

Write 2 Chronicles 32:25a.

But Hezekiah did not repay according to the favor shown him, for his heart was lifted up.

God & I

- "God" test tube should overflow
- "Me" test tube should be less than half full.

God & I

The heart should be filled to a level with a percentage value to indicate how much we do things for God and how much for ourselves.



KING HEZEKIAH

Write 2 Chronicles 29:3 below.

[_____]

ME	KING HEZEKIAH
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.

How did King Hezekiah trust in the Lord? (2 Kings 18:6)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write down Hezekiah's prayer (Isaiah 38:3) and God's response (Isaiah 38:4-6)

King Hezekiah's Prayer



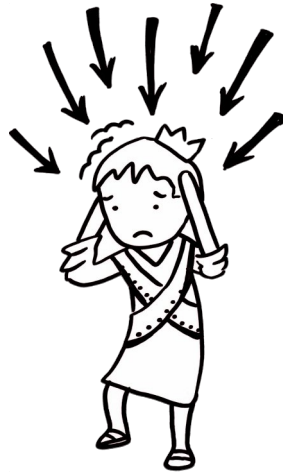
God's Response



**trusting IN
HARDTIMES -**

HOLD ON, NEVER DEPART

Draw the pressures Hezekiah was facing around him.

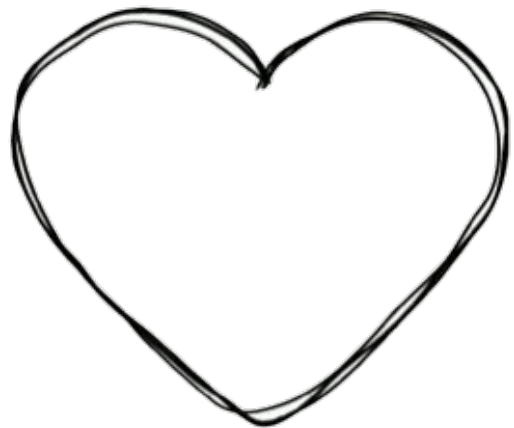
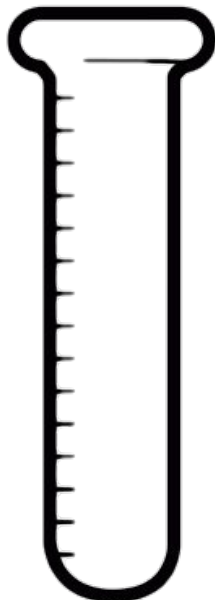
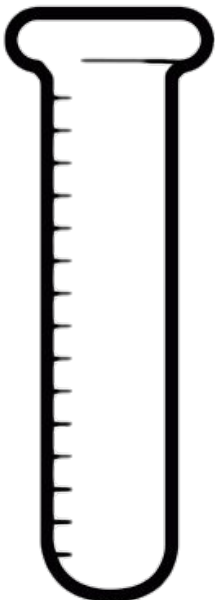


Write 2 Chronicles 32:25a.

Courage
TO STAND UP FOR GOD

God & I

God & I

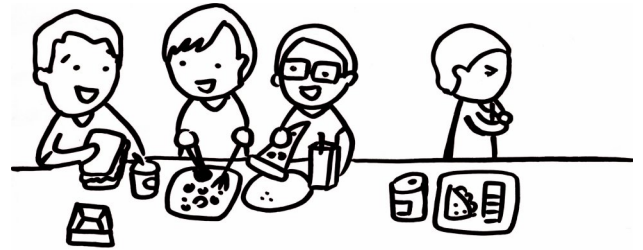


Being Different

Joseph felt his hands getting sweaty and he peeked to the left and to the right to make sure his friends weren't looking. It was lunchtime, and in front of him was the meal that his mother had prepared for him, but this was the dreaded part of lunch time... saying a silent prayer to thank God. The first time he had done it at school, his best friend Colin had noticed and given him a weird look. Nowadays, Joseph usually waited until all his friends were in an animated conversation before he would dare to say a prayer. His RE teachers taught in class that we always need to thank God for our food, but Joseph really didn't want to. He found it hard enough to make friends and to be seen as part of the "popular" group. Now was his chance! Joseph quickly closed his eyes, and turned away from the rest of the group, "In the name of Jesus I pray, thank You, God, for the food Mom has prepared for me. Thank You for everything. Amen." He peeked to the left and to his right—no one had seen—and breathed a sigh of relief.

Joseph's hands were sweaty again, but this time he wasn't on the playground with his friends. This time he was in church, standing up with the rest of the congregation singing a hymn. Colin, his friend from school, was standing next to him, peeking to the left and right while holding a hymn book in his hands. Joseph had invited Colin for service and Colin, curious as to what a Christian church was like, agreed to come along. The one thing Joseph didn't know how to bring up was the prayer. Joseph's Bible knowledge wasn't strong and he wasn't sure how to bring up the topic of speaking in tongues. Even though he had received the Holy Spirit and spoken in tongues, he did not know how to describe it and was afraid of how Colin would react. Would Colin stop being friends with him, see him as an alien, or welcome the prayer? Joseph's heart started pounding as the hymn finished... how was he going to stand out?

1. Do you think Joseph has shown courage? In what way?
2. Have you ever been in Joseph's position before? In what areas are you afraid of being different from your non-church friends?
3. What can Joseph do to be even more courageous for God?

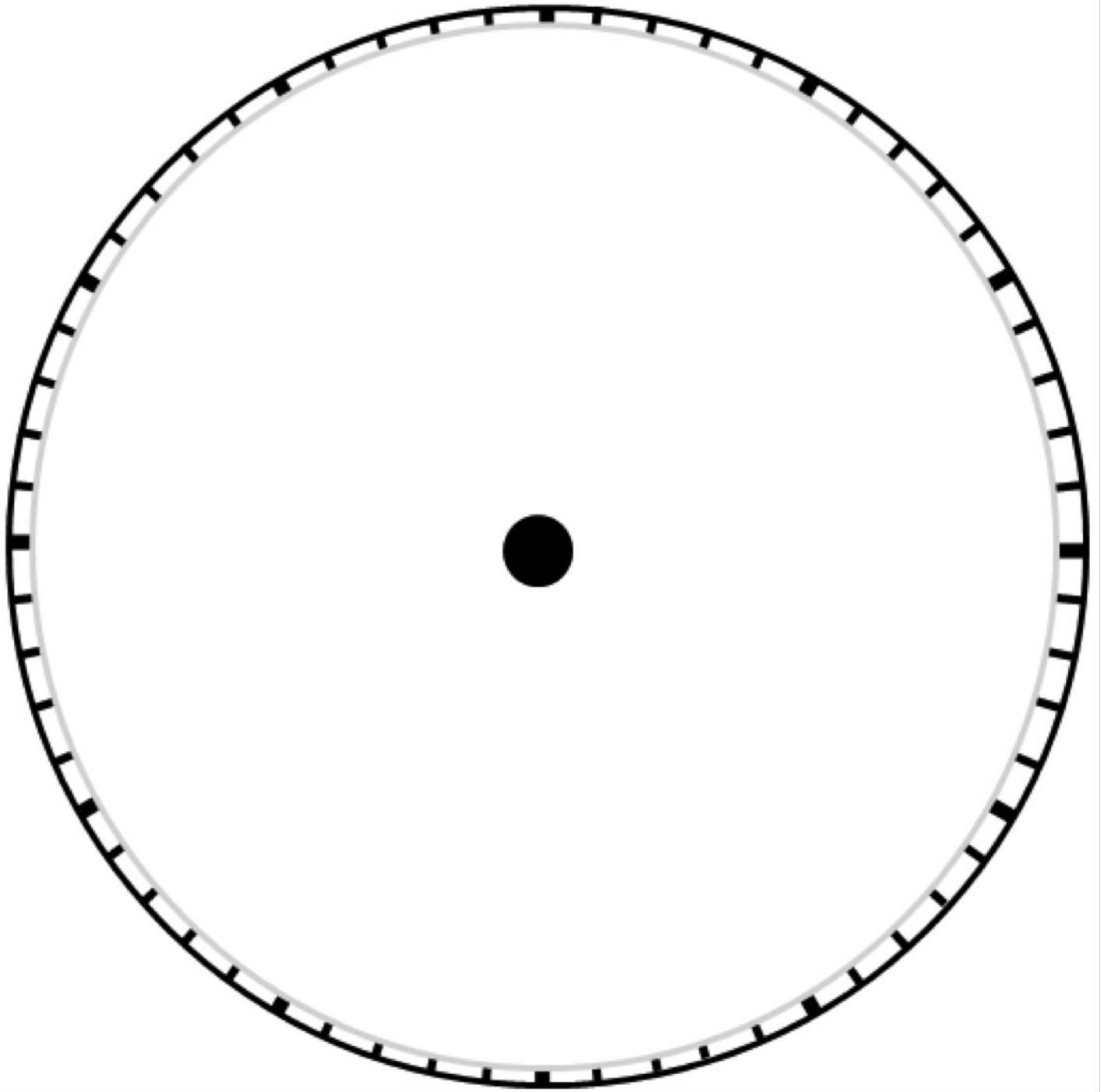


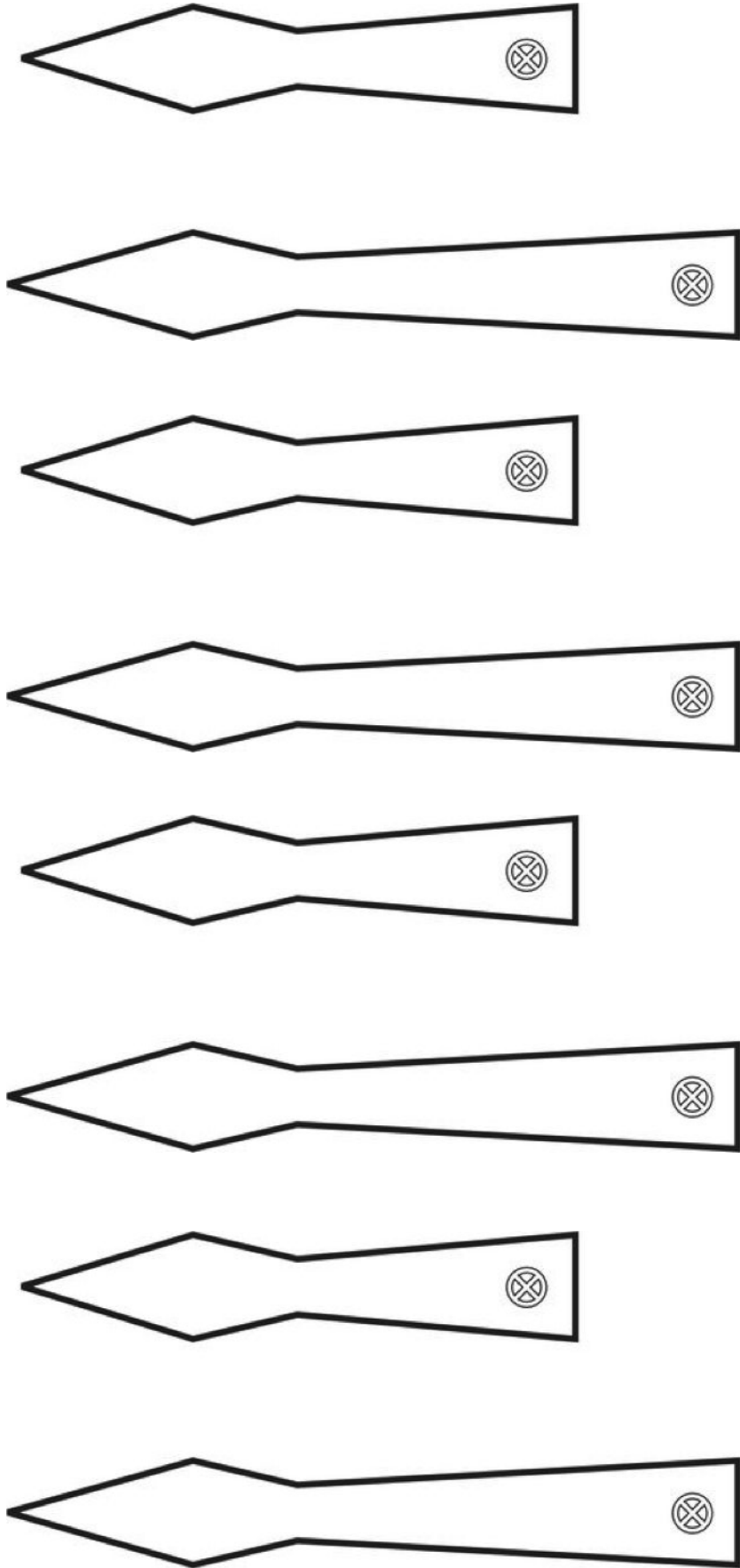
Miss Popular

Caroline was so excited to go back to school after summer break. She couldn't wait to see her friends, but most of all, she wanted to show her friends the present her parents bought her. It was a new bag—bright, shiny, and new. When she reached the playground and found her friends, her friend Anna was the first to notice the bag. "That is so cool! I really like your bag, Caroline." Upon hearing that compliment, Caroline beamed in her heart with happiness. "What does the inside look like?" She casually opened her bag, as more of her friends were looking at her. "Oh, I wish I had that bag!" For the rest of the day, Caroline and her new bag was the talk of her class. She walked home with a big smile on her face—that was the best day she had ever had in school!



1. Was it wrong for Caroline to bring her bag to school?
2. What made Caroline proud of her bag?
3. How could Caroline not be proud and still enjoy the new bag she had received?





E2 Year 3 Book 4 Lesson 6—King Hezekiah

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. **(2 Kings 18:5)**

What does the memory verse mean?

1. Write down three ways that Hezekiah trusted in God.

2. What did Hezekiah do that showed his pride?

Your turn!

3. Write down three difficulties you have in your life right now that require you to trust in God.

4. Give an example of one area in which you have become proud, or a time when you forgot about God.

Put yourself in his shoes!

Write a statement to express how you think Hezekiah is feeling at each stage of his life:

- Year 1 (opening the doors of the house of God)

- Year 14 (sick and under attack from Assyria)

- Year 29 (proud and not doing enough for God)