

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of July 23-29, 2023
"THE PRAYER OF HEZEKIAH"

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

If you could only watch one type of TV show for the rest of your life, what genre would you choose, and why?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read 2 Kings 19

1. In 2 Kings 19:8-13, the king of Assyria presented the failures of other nations' gods to discourage Hezekiah from trusting in his own God. How can we recognize similar tactics used to shake our faith in challenging situations? How can a Christian guard his/her faith against doubts and intimidation during challenging times?
2. What led Hezekiah to seek God's help in this situation? Before going to the temple and spreading the letter before the Lord, what had happened, and why did Hezekiah feel the need to turn to God? How does his immediate response reflect his faith and dependence on God?
3. Why do you think Hezekiah starts his prayer by acknowledging God's sovereignty over all the kingdoms of the earth? How might this acknowledgment have influenced his perspective on the situation? What aspects of God's character and attributes does he emphasize in his prayer?
4. How can we respond when our faith is ridiculed or questioned by others, as Hezekiah experienced with Sennacherib's mocking? What principles from this passage can guide our actions and attitudes?
5. Read 1 John 5:14, Colossians 1:9, James 4:3. What does it mean to pray in God's will? How does this differ from simply praying for our desires or wants? How does this cultivate contentment and trust in God's timing and purposes? How can you incorporate a focus on God's glory and recognition of his sovereignty in your prayers?

6. In verses 35-37, we see God's sudden and decisive deliverance. Reflect on this example where we see God demonstrated his power in a seemingly impossible situation. How does this encourage us to trust in God's ability to overcome any challenge we face?
7. Examine your perspective on God's sovereignty and his control over your life. How has God in past situations delivered you? In your own life, how have distractions, pride or sin become a hindrance in having a deeper dependence on him?
8. **NEXT STEPS**
"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." - Corrie Ten Boom
 - I will turn to God as my first response and not the last resort.
 - I will set my eyes to see God's supremacy over any situation.
 - I will pray in accordance to his will.

Don't forget to:

- Go through the devotionals every day this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for a growing humility before God, recognizing his presence and sovereignty in our lives.
- Pray for the constant awareness of God's character and attributes, keeping him at the forefront of our thoughts.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING GUIDE

July 24 2 Timothy 4:6-8
July 25 Mark 6:45-53
July 26 Isaiah 49:14-19
July 27 Ecclesiastes 12
July 28 Nehemiah 1
July 29 2 Kings 4:1-7
July 30 2 Corinthians 1:12-16