

Ice Breaker (in groups of 2 or 3 for larger groups)

Share about what scary movie or story or ride left you feeling the most afraid
[then, rebuke fear and continue 😊]

Talk About it!

1. Read **2 Kings 18:5-7**

a. As you read these words, what do you expect from Hezekiah's life? Do these words about Hezekiah encourage you or challenge you?

2. Read **2 Kings 18:7-12**

a. The northern Kingdom of Israel was defeated - and the scripture says exactly why. How have you observed a spirit of disobedience to God derailing someone's life? Have you personally ever experienced this? What helps you or motivates you to stay obedient to the Lord?

3. Read **2 Kings 18:13-16**

a. How do Hezekiah's actions strike you? What do you think motivated Hezekiah in this moment?

4. Read **1 Corinthians 10:12** and **Jeremiah 6:16**

a. Have you ever found yourself not quite living up to what you know is God's highest and best? What do you do when that happens? Why does living in reaction seem to create chaos? What is the alternative? (hint - it was the main idea declaration of the message)

5. Read **2 Kings 18:17-18**

a. What good was Hezekiah's reactionary posture in the end?

6. Read **2 Corinthians 5:7** and **Proverbs 3:5-6**

a. How can fear actually serve you? What must you do to cultivate a faith-filled responsiveness in your life?

Scripture Reference (Questions 1-6)

2 KINGS 18:5-18 NLT

5 Hezekiah trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before or after his time. 6 He remained faithful to the Lord in everything, and he carefully obeyed all the commands the Lord had given Moses. 7 So the Lord was with him, and Hezekiah was successful in everything he did. He revolted against the king of Assyria and refused to pay him tribute. 8 He also conquered the Philistines as far distant as Gaza and its territory, from their smallest outpost to their largest walled city.

9 During the fourth year of Hezekiah's reign, which was the seventh year of King Hoshea's reign in Israel, King Sennacherib of Assyria attacked the city of Samaria and began a siege against it. 10 Three years later, during the sixth year of King Hezekiah's reign and the ninth year of King Hoshea's reign in Israel, Samaria fell. 11 At that time the king of Assyria exiled the Israelites to Assyria and placed them in colonies in Halah, along the banks of the Habor River in Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. 12 For they refused to listen to the Lord their God and obey him. Instead, they violated his covenant—all the laws that Moses the Lord's servant had commanded them to obey.

13 In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah's reign, King Sennacherib of Assyria came to attack the fortified towns of Judah and conquered them. 14 King Hezekiah sent this message to the king of Assyria at Lachish: "I have done wrong. I will pay whatever tribute money you demand if you will only withdraw." The king of Assyria then demanded a settlement of more than eleven tons of silver and one ton of gold. 15 To gather this amount, King Hezekiah used all the silver stored in the Temple of the Lord and in the palace treasury. 16 Hezekiah even stripped the gold from the doors of the Lord's Temple and from the doorposts he had overlaid with gold, and he gave it all to the Assyrian king.

17 Nevertheless, the king of Assyria sent his commander in chief, his field commander, and his chief of staff from Lachish with a huge army to confront King Hezekiah in Jerusalem. The Assyrians took up a position beside the aqueduct that feeds water into the upper pool, near the road leading to the field where cloth is washed. 18 They summoned King Hezekiah, but the king sent these officials to meet with them: Eliakim son of Hilkiah, the palace administrator; Shebna the court secretary; and Joah son of Asaph, the royal historian.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:7 NLT

7 For we live by believing and not by seeing.

PROVERBS 3:5-6 NLT

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.

6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:12 NLT

12 If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall.

JEREMIAH 6:16 NLT

16 This is what the Lord says: "Stop at the crossroads and look around. Ask for the old, godly way, and walk in it. Travel its path, and you will find rest for your souls. But you reply, 'No, that's not the road we want!'"