

More Time on the Clock

Isaiah 38:1-21; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 340-348

Kari was sick, so sick she didn't think she would ever get well. Day after day she felt awful. And day after day she prayed that God would make her well. God heard her prayers, and she got better.

Kari learned that God answers prayer. King Hezekiah learned that too.

King Hezekiah was helpless. He didn't like the feeling. He was used to being in charge of his life, but now he was very sick.

In his bedroom King Hezekiah tossed and turned feverishly. His head ached, and his body felt sore all over. He thought about

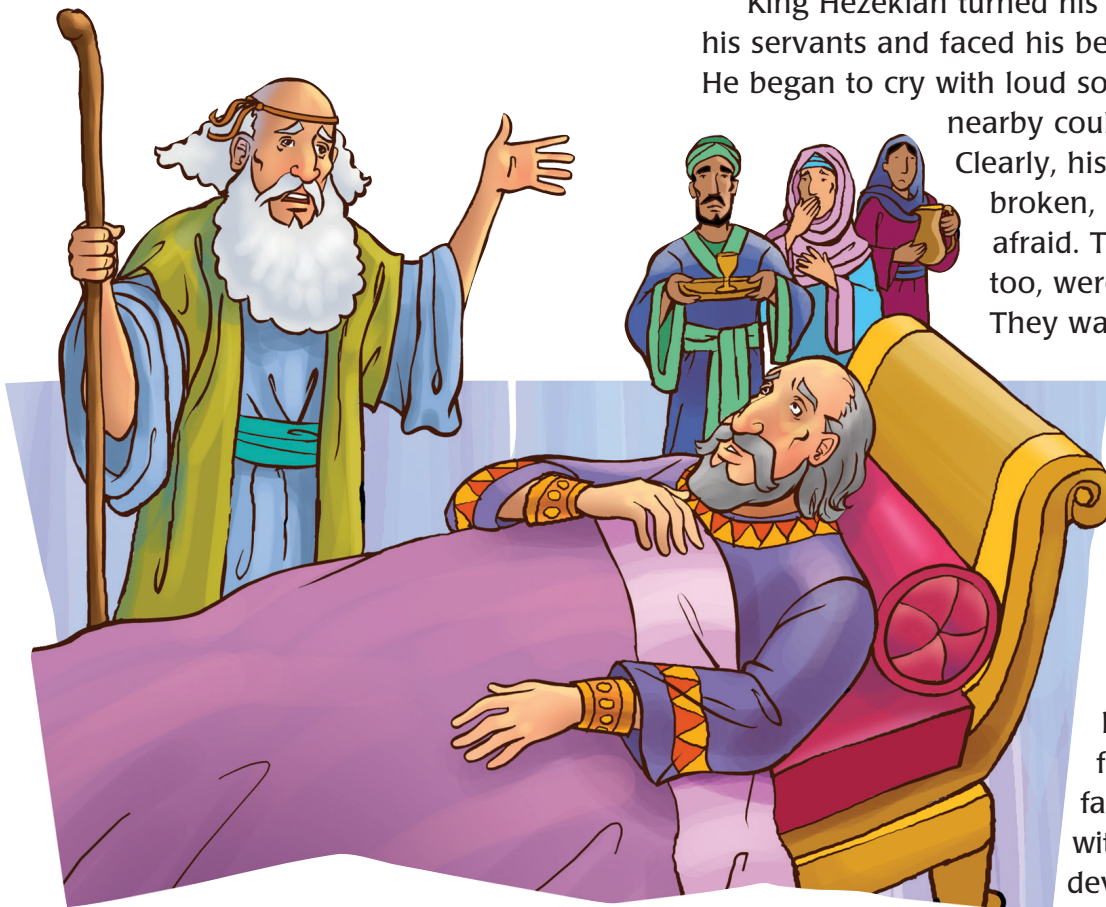
his life. He had been a good king. He had obeyed God and been faithful. He had done what the prophets had told him to do. What would happen to him now?

God knew that the king was a good man. He knew that the king had some questions. So He sent the prophet Isaiah to talk to him. Isaiah had news that the king did not want to hear. He told the king as gently as he could, "This is what the Lord says: Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover" (Isaiah 38:1, NIV). And then Isaiah left. Being a messenger of God wasn't always pleasant.

King Hezekiah turned his face away from his servants and faced his bedroom wall. He began to cry with loud sobs. Everyone nearby could hear him.

Clearly, his heart was broken, and he was afraid. The servants, too, were frightened. They wanted to help, but they did not know how.

In his most helpless moment the king turned to God and reviewed his life. "Remember how I have followed You faithfully and with wholehearted devotion," Hezekiah



The Message

God keeps His promises.

Memory Verse

"The Lord will do
what he has
promised"

(Isaiah 38:7, NIV).

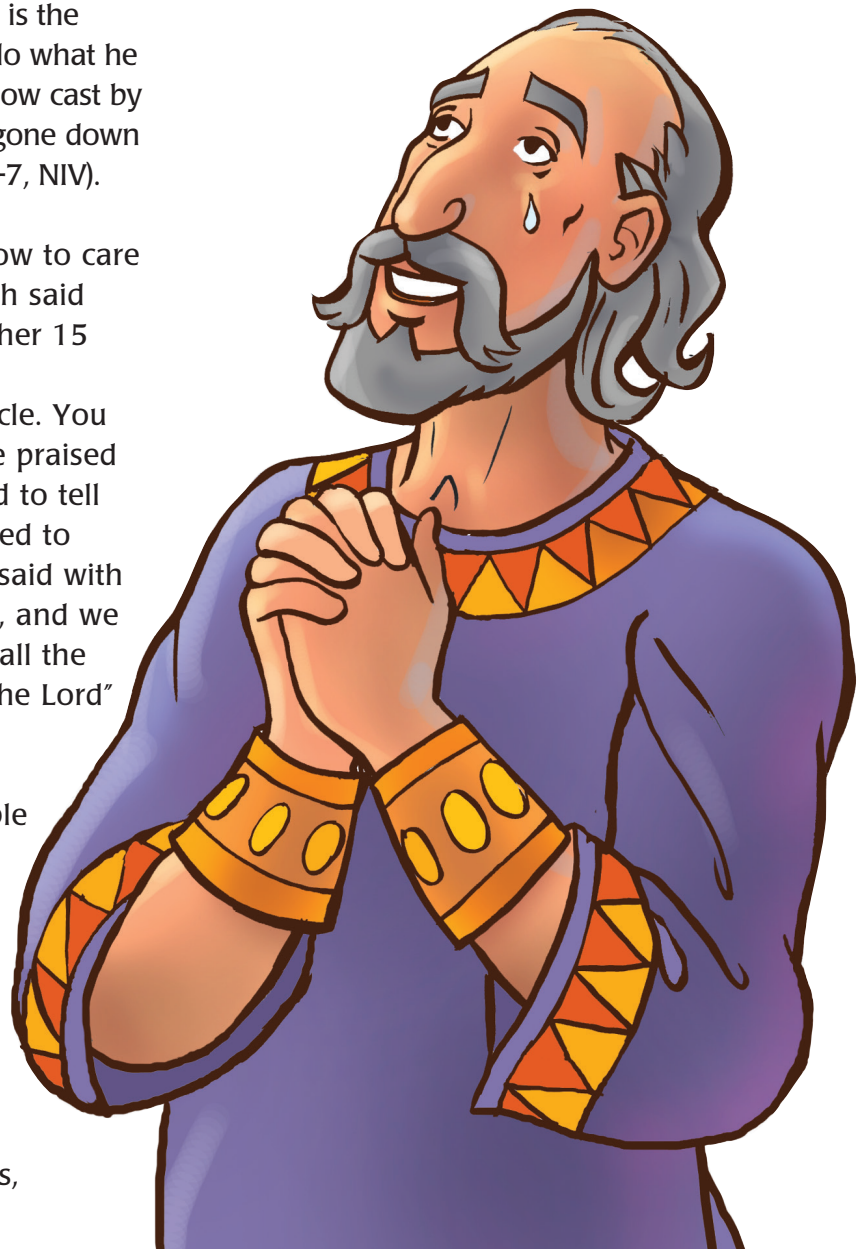
said. "I have done what is good in Your eyes." He started crying again.

God took pity on Hezekiah. He sent Isaiah back to the king with a new message. Isaiah said, "This is what the Lord . . . says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will add fifteen years to your life. . . . This is the Lord's sign to you that the Lord will do what he has promised: He will make the shadow cast by the sun go back the ten steps it has gone down on the stairway of Ahaz" (Isaiah 38:5-7, NIV). The shadow would move backward!

Then Isaiah told the servants how to care for Hezekiah. And they did as Isaiah said (Isaiah 38:21). Hezekiah lived another 15 years and continued to serve God.

Hezekiah wrote about this miracle. You can read his words in Isaiah 38. He praised God for being healed and promised to tell his story to his children. He promised to praise God for His faithfulness. He said with confidence, "The Lord will save me, and we will sing with stringed instruments all the days of our lives in the temple of the Lord" (Isaiah 38:20, NIV).

Not everyone experiences a miracle as King Hezekiah did. People still die from being sick. But there is hope. God has promised to send Jesus to take us to heaven. When He comes, those who have been faithful will be resurrected. In heaven we will live forever with Jesus. And no one will get sick or die! We can believe that promise because God keeps all His promises, just as He did for Hezekiah.



S A B B A T H

DO Take a Sabbath walk with your family in the sunshine, if possible. Look for shadows. Stop some place and read your lesson story. Your story has sun and shadows too. At the end of your walk look at the shadows again. How have the shadows changed?

READ Read and discuss Isaiah 38:7 together.

SING Sing "All Through the Day" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 49) before prayer. Thank God for sunshine.

S U N D A Y

READ Read and discuss Isaiah 38:1-3 during worship. How might you have felt if Isaiah had given this message to you? What two things did Hezekiah do? Does your family pray when you are in trouble?

DO Ask each family member what their favorite Bible promise is and why. Make a list of these texts. During the week, make a decorated bookmark for each person with their special promise. Save the bookmarks for Friday worship.

DO Say your memory verse together. Then thank God for His promises.

T U E S D A Y

READ During family worship, read and discuss Isaiah 38:7, 8.

DO How does the sun's shadow tell time? Stand a pencil in firm dirt or a lump of clay. Use a flashlight as the "sun." Make the flashlight's beam "rise" from below one side of the pencil to climb to "midday" and then slowly "set" on the other side. Notice changes in the pencil's shadow. Make the flashlight beam go back to see the "sun" going backward. Watch the shadow.

DO Say your memory verse. Then work on your promise bookmarks.

PRAY Thank God for light and darkness.

The sun's shadow usually moves slowly forward on a sundial.



M O N D A Y

READ With your family, read and discuss Isaiah 38:4-6.

DO Draw a picture of a time you were in trouble and God heard your prayer for help. Draw His answer to your prayer. Explain your picture to your family.

DO Write this week's memory verse; then write above it, "God's promise to (your name)."

PRAY Thank God for hearing and answering your prayers.

W E D N E S D A Y

SHARE Together with your family, read and discuss the first part of Hezekiah's song in Isaiah 38:9-14. Is this the sad part?

SING Sing a happy song about God's promises: "Jesus Keeps His Promises" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 41). Then pray for someone who is sick.

DO Make up a happy tune for your memory verse. Work on your promise bookmarks.

THURSDAY

READ Read and discuss Isaiah 38:15-20 with your family.

DO God added some extra time to Hezekiah's life. What would you do with extra hours today?

DO Have you shared one of God's promises with a friend? (If you were not in Sabbath School, write on a card with markers of different colors one of God's promises and share it with a friend.)

SING Sing your memory verse song. Thank God for health and strength. Then finish your promise bookmarks.

FRIDAY

DO Set a full, clear glass of water on a windowsill in bright sunlight. Be sure the glass sticks out over the ledge a little bit. Place a white piece of paper on the floor under the window. What do you see on the paper? Does it remind you of God's love?

DO Act out the story of Hezekiah with your family. Make the shadow with a flashlight.

DO Give your family the promise bookmarks you made. Have them read their promise out loud and tell what it means to them.

SING Sing your memory verse together. Then thank God for another Sabbath.

More Time
on the Clock

PUZZLE

Directions: Sometimes people feel helpless, like King Hezekiah. God performed a miracle and gave the king another 15 years of life. The king knew the miracle would happen because the sundial moved backward 10 steps! Study these sundials and mark those that are the same.

