

Lesson Aim: To grow in our understanding of what it means to trust God when forces and circumstances are coming against us.



connecting

Prayer: Start your time together by asking the Holy Spirit to lead your discussion.

Icebreaker: Is it more difficult to love our enemy or lend, expecting nothing back?

1. **READ 2 Chronicles 32:1.** We read the “after all that Hezekiah had so faithfully done” Sennacherib and Assyria invaded Judah. How do you feel when you try hard to obey God and it still feels like forces (circumstances and maybe even people) keep working against you?

2. **READ 2 Chronicles 32:2-8.** What strikes you about how Hezekiah responded to Sennacherib’s invasion?

3. Is there anything in your life right now that feels like a “Sennacherib” (too big to handle)?

4. Is there anything you can learn from Hezekiah’s initial response to apply to your own life and situation?

5. **READ 2 Chronicles 32:9-19.** What do you think Sennacherib was hoping to accomplish through his words to Hezekiah and the people of Jerusalem?

6. When forces are working against you, what are some ways they have “spoken” lies and discouraging words to you?

7. **READ Ephesians 6:10-12.** What is ultimately behind the forces that work against us? Why is this important to keep in mind?

8. **READ 2 Chronicles 32:20-23.** How was Sennacherib’s invasion actually defeated? What was Hezekiah’s role in this?

9. Has God ever miraculously delivered you from a terrible situation or person? How did it happen?



growing



sewing



reaching

Did you have an answer to Question #3? Take a moment right now to pray for each other about it. We recommend you break into smaller groups (3-5) to do this.

Let God Deal With Your Enemies

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2 Chronicles 32:1-23 (cf. 2 Kings 18:7b, 13-19:37; Isaiah 36-37)

SUMMARY REVIEW

- ▶ 2 Chronicles 29: Getting the House of God back in order.
- ▶ 2 Chronicles 30: Calling all Judah back to worship God.
- ▶ 2 Chronicles 31: The high places come down & the giving goes up.

DISTURBING FACT: King Hezekiah had an Anti-Assyria policy. (2 Kings 18:5-7)

THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE & KING SENNACHERIB (2 Chronicles 32:1)

PRINCIPLE A: You will face problems, threats & enemies in your lifetime. (John 16:33; Ephesians 6:12)

PRINCIPLE B: Trusting in God doesn't mean you just sit back & do nothing.

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| ❶ <u>City Expansion</u> | ❷ <u>Military Improvements</u> (2 Chron. 32:5b) |
| ❸ <u>Water Supply</u> (2 Chron. 32:2-4) | ❹ <u>Encouraged his people to trust God</u> (2 Chron. 32:6-8) |
| ❺ <u>Wall Reinforcements</u> (2 Chron. 32:5a) | ❻ <u>Sought to appease Sennacherib</u> (2 Kings 18:13-14) |

PRINCIPLE C: God + 1 person who trusts Him = Victory

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOUR OWN SOLUTIONS ARE NOT ENOUGH? (2 Chron. 32:9-19)

▶ Hezekiah's Dilemma (Sennacherib's Diabolic Strategy)

- ❶ TAUNT: A history lesson of Assyria's invincibility
- ❷ ACCUSATION: Hezekiah is deceiving & misleading you
- ❸ LIE: No god can deliver its people from Sennacherib
- ❹ LIE: Your God cannot help or deliver you
- ❺ MOCKERY: Mocking of God & Hezekiah
- ❻ LIE: God Himself told Sennacherib to destroy Jerusalem
- ❼ INTIMIDATION: They spoke in Hebrew to intimidate everyone
- ❽ THREAT: Surrender or die

▶ Hezekiah's Faith Actions

- ❶ He sought the help & encouragement of a godly friend
- ❷ He took the matter to God in humble, surrendered prayer

PRINCIPLE D: Pick your friends carefully for you will become like them.

PRINCIPLE E: Let God deal with your enemies.

RESULTS FOR "THE ENEMY" / SENNACHERIB (cf. Romans 8:31-34, 37-39)

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| ▶ <u>185,000</u> (Assyrian) soldiers <u>die</u> | ▶ <u>Retreat</u> in humility |
| ▶ <u>Failure</u> to destroy Jerusalem | ▶ <u>Assassination</u> by his sons |