

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

Share about a good 'summer experience' you or your family had these last couple months.

Talk About it!

1. Read **Romans 15:4**

a. How familiar are you with the Old Testament on a scale of 1-10? What do you hope you'll gain from this Hezekiah series?

2. Read **2 Chronicles 28:1-4** and **2 Kings 16:1-2**

a. How does the life of Hezekiah's father appear? What would you expect to be likely in Hezekiah's life? How does it affect you to know that King Hezekiah's upbringing didn't lead to his downfall? What do you think the royal identity of a King is like in Ancient Israel?

3. Read **1 Peter 2:9** and **Luke 17:21**

a. How do we have a holy, royal identity that we're made for? What gets in the way of you truly embracing it?

4. Read **2 Kings 18:3-4**, **Ephesians 5:8-10**, and **2 Corinthians 7:1**

a. What was striking to you about some of the things Hezekiah got rid of & what they mean? How do you feel God calling you to get rid of some things that are getting in the way of your holy, royal identity? Is there any step you feel Him calling you to?

5. Read **2 Kings 18:5-8** and **2 Chronicles 29:1-12**

a. What do you see in the life of Hezekiah so far that you would want to emulate? Based on what you've seen so far in Hezekiah's life, what are some things a person can do if they desire to experience success or favor in this life?

Scripture Reference (Questions 1-3)

ROMANS 15:4 NLT

4 Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled.

2 CHRONICLES 28:1-4 NLT

1 Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem sixteen years. He did not do what was pleasing in the sight of the Lord, as his ancestor David had done. 2 Instead, he followed the example of the kings of Israel. He cast metal images for the worship of Baal. 3 He offered sacrifices in the valley of Ben-Hinnom, even sacrificing his own sons in the fire. In this way, he followed the detestable practices of the pagan nations the Lord had driven from the land ahead of the Israelites. 4 He offered sacrifices and burned incense at the pagan shrines and on the hills and under every green tree.

2 KINGS 16:1-2 NLT

1 Ahaz son of Jotham began to rule over Judah in the seventeenth year of King Pekah's reign in Israel. 2 Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem sixteen years. He did not do what was pleasing in the sight of the Lord his God, as his ancestor David had done.

1 PETER 2:9 NLT

9 But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

LUKE 17:21 NLT

21 You won't be able to say, 'Here it is!' or 'It's over there!' For the Kingdom of God is already among you."

Scripture Reference (Question 4)

2 KINGS 18:3-4 NLT

3 He did what was pleasing in the Lord's sight, just as his ancestor David had done. 4 He removed the pagan shrines, smashed the sacred pillars, and cut down the Asherah poles. He broke up the bronze serpent that Moses had made, because the people of Israel had been offering sacrifices to it. The bronze serpent was called Nehushtan.

EPHESIANS 5:8-10 NLT

8 For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! 9 For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true.

10 Carefully determine what pleases the Lord.

2 CORINTHIANS 7:1 NLT

1 Because we have these promises, dear friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness because we fear God.

1 PETER 2:9 NLT

9 But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

Scripture Reference (Question 5)

2 KINGS 18:5-8 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.

2 CHRONICLES 29:1-12A NLT

1 Hezekiah was twenty-five years old when he became the king of Judah, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years. His mother was Abijah, the daughter of Zechariah. 2 He did what was pleasing in the Lord's sight, just as his ancestor David had done.

3 In the very first month of the first year of his reign, Hezekiah reopened the doors of the Temple of the Lord and repaired them. 4 He summoned the priests and Levites to meet him at the courtyard east of the Temple. 5 He said to them, "Listen to me, you Levites! Purify yourselves, and purify the Temple of the Lord, the God of your ancestors. Remove all the defiled things from the sanctuary. 6 Our ancestors were unfaithful and did what was evil in the sight of the Lord our God. They abandoned the Lord and his dwelling place; they turned their backs on him. 7 They also shut the doors to the Temple's entry room, and they snuffed out the lamps. They stopped burning incense and presenting burnt offerings at the sanctuary of the God of Israel.

8 "That is why the Lord's anger has fallen upon Judah and Jerusalem. He has made them an object of dread, horror, and ridicule, as you can see with your own eyes. 9 Because of this, our fathers have been killed in battle, and our sons and daughters and wives have been captured. 10 But now I will make a covenant with the Lord, the God of Israel, so that his fierce anger will turn away from us. 11 My sons, do not neglect your duties any longer! The Lord has chosen you to stand in his presence, to minister to him, and to lead the people in worship and present offerings to him."

12 Then these Levites got right to work...