



Date: _____
Year 3, Lesson 57 (Spring)

Hezekiah Calls on the One True God

Primary Scripture: 2 Kings 18:13 to 19:37; Isaiah 43:11-12

Key Verse: Isaiah 43:11, “I alone am the Lord, and there is no savior except me.”

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids today grow up in a culture that often says there is one God but many different ways or religions that lead to him. In effect, this says that all religions are equally valid and true. Kids need to know the truth from the Bible. There is but one true God. In the Old Testament, King Hezekiah was confronted with King Sennacherib of Assyria who claimed his own god to be true and that Hezekiah's God held no power. King Hezekiah asked God to defend his own name. God did and defeated the Assyrian army. This proved that he is the one true God.

Kids need assurance in Christ who is the only God that died and rose again. They can call on him not only as the true God, but their personal God who rescues them, as well.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus claims he is the only way to the Father. He provided this way through his death and resurrection on the cross. He paid the price for our sin.

Jesus in us: Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus lives in us and helps us through life's struggles.

Jesus through us: As we point to him as the only true and living God, he uses our witness to bring glory to his name.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies: four crepe paper streamers taped to the ceiling and reaching almost to the floor (Determine the size the paper needs to be cut by measuring from the ceiling to about five feet above the floor.)

In advance, affix the streamers individually with tape to the ceiling. Three need to be loosely secured so that they can be pulled down with an easy jerk. The fourth needs to be firmly secured.

Begin by saying:

Imagine these strands of paper represent what many people believe about going to heaven. They believe there are many ways you can get to heaven. They also believe there are many different ways to get to God.

Hold the first streamer.

For example, some people believe that if you do enough nice and good things, you get to go to heaven. This way you don't really need God. You just need yourself and the good things you can do. But the Bible says that no one is righteous. All have done something wrong. You can't get to heaven on your own by trying to be good enough.

Pull the first streamer down. Hold second streamer.

Some people believe that after you die, you come back as another person. You will have a new life. They believe that if you keep getting better with each life, you can grow closer and closer to God until finally, after one of your lives, you will become part of God.

But the Bible says that God designed life on earth to be lived once, and after that, judgment...either heaven or hell.

Pull second streamer down. Hold third streamer.

Some people believe if you follow a religion and its religious rules, you will go to heaven. There are many religious teachers. Some people think they are true. But those religions tell people what to do to get to heaven, not what God does.

Pull down the third streamer.

They don't tell the truth. So what is the truth? The Bible says you are not saved by the things you do, but by belief and trust in the gift given by God—through what Jesus did.

Hold the last streamer.

Today's Bible verse comes from the Old Testament prophet, Isaiah. He says this:

***"I alone am the Lord, and there is no savior except me. I have revealed it to you, I have saved you, and I have announced it to you. There was no foreign god among you. You are my witnesses that I am God," declares the Lord.* (Isaiah 43:11-12)**

Since he is the only true God, let's worship him today.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Supplies: crepe paper streamer (still attached to ceiling from Attention Grabber)

Go back to the crepe paper still attached to the ceiling. Take one of the sections of crepe paper already taken down and tear it into a four-foot section. Make a cross by holding it horizontal as a cross section against the remaining strand.

What makes Christianity different than any other religion?

Take a few answers from the kids. Answer with the following:

In all other religions, the actions of the people are the most important factor in going to heaven. But the true God says the way to heaven is not through your work, but through what Jesus Christ has already done.

What did God do to pay for all of our sin?

Hold the paper so it forms a cross.

God sent his Son Jesus who died on the cross for us so that we would be forgiven. But he didn't stay dead. He rose again. No other religion has a god who did this. When we trust Jesus as our Savior, we are rescued. We have life with him now and forever. Let's pray.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you that you are the only true and living God. Thank you for your Son Jesus and his life that he gave us on the cross. We need him in our lives. Please forgive us for any ways we have disobeyed you or dishonored you. Show us the times in our lives that we hurt other people or maybe we did not help them. Let us know when we have been unkind or when we speak unloving words to others. Help us be more like Jesus and more loving toward others. Give us your Holy Spirit so that we trust only in you, the one true living God. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Supplies: play money (like Monopoly)

Hold up money for kids to see.

Could I go into a store and use this money? No, of course not. It is play money and not real. But did you know there are many people who believe there are many different types of gods and paths to heaven other than Jesus? Are they real gods? No, they are fake gods just like this money. One of the privileges we have is knowing the one true and living God. He is not a fake.

So what do we give our Lord and Savior? Fake money? No. Real money and a real offering. We offer him money as a gift so that he can use it to help other people come to know his love. This morning you can bring your offering forward to the one true God.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Option one: Balloon Obstacle Course

Supplies: obstacle course using hula hoops or some other markers that are safe when kids step into them or bump against them, two to five inflated balloons

In advance, set an obstacle course in the room using hula hoops or some other kind of markers.

Divide the kids into two to five groups and have them line up in single file. Give an inflated balloon to the first person in each line. Tell them that the object of the game is to go from the starting point to another point (which can be a wall or a line marked with masking tape), navigating through the obstacle course without stepping in any hula hoops or bumping against the obstacles. While doing this, they are to *bounce* the balloon in the air.

After they arrive at the destination, they turn around and carry the balloons back to the starting line for the next kids waiting in line to go. Continue until all have had a turn.

Gather kids together and debrief the following.

In this activity, you had one balloon to focus on and follow. Just like each team had one balloon, there is but one true God. We want to follow him. We want to keep our eyes on him. We will come across many obstacles in our lives that will try to keep us from following the one true God. We need to keep our eyes on Jesus and not follow any other gods or get bumped by any other obstacles.

Option two: Taste Test

Supplies: Skittles candies (three per kid), napkins

The goal of this game is to guess which of the three Skittles received is an imposter... a fake.

Divide the group into partners. Pass out napkins. Give each person two Skittles of one color and a third of a different flavor. Let them hold the Skittles in their napkins. Give the following directions:

We are going to see if you can taste which Skittle does not match or is the false Skittle. Your partner will give you a Skittle one at a time. For this game to be fun, you must keep your eyes tightly closed while you put your Skittle in your mouth.

The person whose birthday is the closest to today will be the first one to be a taste tester. This person can set his/her napkin down with their Skittles and get ready to receive them from his/her partner. Close your eyes tightly. Partners, place one of the Skittles in your partner's hands.

Taste tester, without opening your eyes, put the Skittle in your mouth and taste it.

Partners, put a second Skittle in the taster's hands. They may now eat that one.

Repeat with the third Skittle. Remember to keep your eyes tightly closed.

Now which of the Skittles was the fake? Number one, two or three?

Swap sides. The taster becomes the helping partner and the partner becomes the new taster.

As time allows, create elimination rounds for those that won. They can advance to another group to be tested.

Teaching Point

You received three Skittles today with one being an imposter or a fake. Sometimes it is hard to tell the difference, though.

Even so, there are imposters or fakes who say that they know how to get to God. Or they may say, here is another god that is just as good as yours. It may sound true, but when you check it against the truth

that God has written in the Bible, you will find that there is only one God. And the way to him is through Jesus.

Today in our Bible event, we will meet a king named Hezekiah. He heard someone else say that his god was true and Hezekiah's was false. Do you think Hezekiah changed his mind and believed in the other god? We'll find out.

Bible Presentation:

Hezekiah Calls on the One True God

Dramatized Character

Supplies: burlap sack with a hole cut in the top so that it can be worn or draped, paper rolled together to look like a scroll

Introduction: I trust the one true God.

Presenter comes out wearing the burlap sack and looking sorrowful.

I am King Hezekiah, king of Judah and a follower of the one true God.

I may not look like a king now because I am wearing this sackcloth. But listen to my story and why I am wearing the sackcloth and how I know to trust the one true God.

Maybe you will trust him too. Say with me, "I trust in the one true God."

Kids repeat: **I trust in the one true God.**

Hezekiah destroyed false gods.

For many years in my land, evil rulers did not serve the one true God. Some even closed up the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem. Throughout the land, people worshiped idols. But, when I became king, I ordered all the idols in the land to be destroyed. I tore out the false altars built in the temple and burned them outside the city. I even found people worshiping the brass serpent that Moses had made many years before. During that time, when they were ill and looked at it, they were healed by faith.

But now people turned it into an idol for worship. So, I crushed it. I told all, "There is but one true God. Worship him alone."

Perhaps you will trust him, too. Say with me, "I trust in the one true God."

Kids repeat: **I trust in the one true God.**

Assyria has power over the land.

God tried to warn the people. He even sent other armies against them so that they would turn back to him. Mighty armies of thousands and thousands of men had come from Assyria. They ruled over our land and the king of Assyria had demanded that we would pay heavy taxes. If we did not pay, he said he would destroy us.

The King of Assyria demands more.

This evil king of Assyria, Sennacharib, destroyed one city after another city throughout the land. Soon he would be ready to attack Jerusalem. He demanded more gold and more silver from me and my land—more than ever before.

I took all the gold that was in the palace and even took the gold off the doors of the temple. I sent it to King Sennacharib, thinking it would satisfy him. It wasn't enough.

King Sennacharib threatens the city.

Finally, the king of Assyria sent one of his field commanders to mock us outside the walls of Jerusalem with a large army. And they shouted to my city, "Give up. We have conquered every other city. Their gods have not been strong enough to defend them. Your god will not either."

Hezekiah's reply: Prayer.

After he shouted and insulted me and my God, the people were silent. I said, "Do not speak to these leaders of the enemy." Instead, I put on this sackcloth. See how scratchy and itchy it is? It shows that I am crying out to the Lord to help me. It shows that I am not dressed in pride or comfort but I am depending on the LORD to answer. All my officials dressed in sackcloth. Together we prayed.

Laying the scroll on the altar.

The people were afraid. My leaders were afraid. I was afraid. But still I trusted in the one true God. I took the letter written by King Sennacharib and went to the temple. I laid the letter, shaped as a scroll, on the altar before the LORD.

Open up the paper scroll and lay on the altar.

I prayed, “Oh, Lord God, you rule over heaven and over all the kingdoms of the earth. Open your ears, listen to these words Sennacharib has sent to insult you. Open your eyes and see that he calls on false gods. It is true that his army has defeated others and thrown their idols into the fire. They were destroyed because they were not true gods, they were only wood and stone. Now he stands against you. You are the only living God. Deliver us from this mighty army so all the earth will know **YOU ARE THE ONE TRUE GOD!**”

Perhaps you would trust him, too. Say that with me. “I trust in the one true God.”

Kids repeat: **I trust in the one true God.**

Isaiah brings a promise.

Then I sent some of my royalty to the prophet Isaiah. I wanted to know what God’s answer would be. Isaiah said, “The King of Assyria will not enter Jerusalem. He won’t even fire an arrow against it. He will go back to his country and be killed.”

Assyrian soldiers die.

That night God sent an angel through Sennacharib’s camp and struck down 185,000 soldiers with sickness and death—even the leaders of the army. Immediately, King Sennacharib went back to his homeland and stayed there. One day while worshiping in the temple of his gods, Sennacharib’s own son betrayed and killed him.

Conclusion: Trust in the one true God.

What did we learn from this? Trust in the one true God. There may be others who claim to be mighty and powerful. There may be some who claim there are other gods. There may be some that will even say your god is not real. But I tell you, don’t believe them.

Perhaps you will trust him, too. Say with me, “I trust in the one true God.”

Kids repeat: **I trust in the one true God.**

He will never let you down.

Application:

Supplies: paper and pencils

Have the children write their prayer requests on paper and roll them up like scrolls. When they are done, place them in a container and bring them up to the stage.

Isn't it great to have the reassurance that we have a mighty God to call on to help us through our problems? God and God alone has the power to change your most difficult circumstances. Other gods cannot do that because they aren't real. I am going to pray over your prayer requests now. During the week, the Kids Church team is going to continue to pray for all of you and your prayer requests. You can do the same. Trust in the one true God. He is there, waiting and available anytime to listen to your needs.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for loving us so much that we can ask you anything. You know our hearts and what is best for us. Give us the patience to let you do your will in our lives, even if it isn't what we expect. I lift up these prayer requests from our children to you, Lord. Help them see clearly the path that you have laid out for them. In Jesus' wonderful name. Amen.



Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Encourage kids to tell about a time they trusted God to help and he did.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Attention Grabber:

- tape (or other adhesive)
- crepe paper streamer cut into four equal pieces. Determine the size the paper needs to be cut by measuring from the ceiling to about five feet above the floor.

Power of the Cross:

- crepe paper streamer from *Attention Grabber*

Offering:

- play money (like Monopoly)

Learning Game:

Option one

- obstacle course using hula hoops or some other markers that are safe when kids step into them or bump against them
- two to five inflated balloons

Option two

- Skittles candies (three per kid)
- napkins

Bible Presentation:

- burlap sack with a hole cut in the top so that it can be worn by an adult leader
- paper rolled up to look like a scroll

Application:

- paper
- pencils