

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

Which view do you find yourself leaning more towards:
That God CAN do the impossible in the world or that God WILL do the impossible in your life?

Talk About it!

1. Read **2 Kings 20:1** and discuss;

a. King Hezekiah received terrible news from the doctors and the prophet. What would you do if you got 'life ain't fair' news like that?

2. Read **2 Kings 20:2-3** & **Ephesians 6:18-20** and discuss;

a. What kind of impression does Hezekiah's response in prayer leave you with? How have you experienced 'talking to God with trust through the tears' and 'not just accepting the assault'? How is this all part of lifting your faith when life 'ain't fair'?

3. Read **2 Kings 20:4-6** and discuss;

a. In what way is it positive or healthy for Hezekiah to ask God to consider his faithfulness? Have you ever attempted to plead with God on the basis of your good works or faithfulness? In the message we considered the many elements of a faithful life; how are you doing in living a faithful life, generally? Try a rating on a scale of 1-10.

4. Read **2 Kings 10:7-11** and discuss;

a. Have you ever asked God for a sign? What are some possible approaches to 'finding something to affirm your faith' that you might take?

5. Read **Psalms 77:14** and **Matthew 19:26** and discuss;

a. What are the implications of these verses as you face 'life ain't fair' moments?

6. Read **Lamentations 3:22-23** and discuss;

a. How does reviewing God's faithfulness in your life affect you? What is the value of refocusing your faith on God's faithfulness? Share a way you have seen or experienced God's faithfulness recently.

Scripture Reference (Questions 1-3)

2 KINGS 20:1 NLT

1 About that time Hezekiah became deathly ill, and the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz went to visit him. He gave the king this message: “This is what the Lord says: Set your affairs in order, for you are going to die. You will not recover from this illness.”

2 KINGS 20:2-3 NLT

2 When Hezekiah heard this, he turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord, **3** “Remember, O Lord, how I have always been faithful to you and have served you single-mindedly, always doing what pleases you.” Then he broke down and wept bitterly.

EPHESIANS 6:18-20 NLT

18 Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

19 And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God’s mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike. **20** I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God’s ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should.

2 KINGS 20:4-6 NLT

4 But before Isaiah had left the middle courtyard, this message came to him from the Lord: **5** “Go back to Hezekiah, the leader of my people. Tell him, ‘This is what the Lord, the God of your ancestor David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears. I will heal you, and three days from now you will get out of bed and go to the Temple of the Lord. **6** I will add fifteen years to your life, and I will rescue you and this city from the king of Assyria. I will defend this city for my own honor and for the sake of my servant David.’”

Scripture Reference (Questions 4–6)

2 KINGS 10:7-11 NLT

7 When the letter arrived, the leaders killed all seventy of the king's sons. They placed their heads in baskets and presented them to Jehu at Jezreel.

8 A messenger went to Jehu and said, "They have brought the heads of the king's sons."

So Jehu ordered, "Pile them in two heaps at the entrance of the city gate, and leave them there until morning."

9 In the morning he went out and spoke to the crowd that had gathered around them. "You are not to blame," he told them. "I am the one who conspired against my master and killed him. But who killed all these? **10** You can be sure that the message of the Lord that was spoken concerning Ahab's family will not fail. The Lord declared through his servant Elijah that this would happen." **11** Then Jehu killed all who were left of Ahab's relatives living in Jezreel and all his important officials, his personal friends, and his priests. So Ahab was left without a single survivor.

PSALM 77:14 NLT

14 You are the God of great wonders! You demonstrate your awesome power among the nations.

MATTHEW 19:26 NLT

26 Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible."

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23 NLT

22 The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease.

23 Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.