

Exploration Stations

Day 3

Bible Point: God comforts you.

Bible Story: God reassures King Hezekiah. (2 Kings 18:5–19:34)

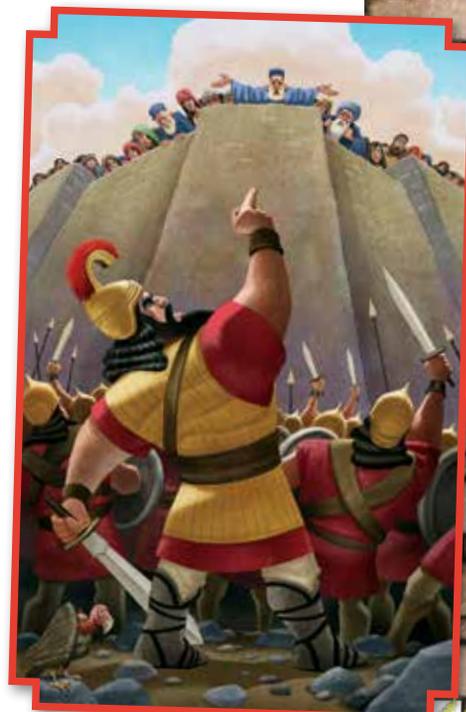
Bible Verse: “He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others.”
(2 Corinthians 1:4)

Consider This:

- ◆ Hezekiah inherited a weakened realm, surrounded by powerful kingdoms such as Egypt and Assyria. Nevertheless, he immersed himself in repairing Jerusalem’s fortifications, manufacturing weapons, and overseeing the creation of the Siloam Tunnel to safeguard their water supply.
- ◆ The gold and silver tribute Hezekiah paid to the Assyrian king likely weighed about 26 tons!
- ◆ Not only did the Assyrian field commander hurl a hurricane of insults at Hezekiah, but he did it in Hebrew so Judah’s onlookers could understand every offensive word. At the time, Aramaic was the official language, so it’s surprising that this officer had such a mastery of Hebrew.
- ◆ Hezekiah responded dramatically to the Assyrian lies, threats, and insults. He clothed himself in sackcloth, as a sign of mourning. He headed to the temple and laid the offensive words before God. Then he cried out to God, imploring him to turn his eyes and ears toward his vulnerable children.
- ◆ Apparently the Assyrians had destroyed the surrounding farmland, prohibiting God’s people from planting adequate crops. Yet in 2 Kings 19:29, God promises that his people will have enough food to last two seasons. What a comforting assurance!

Why It Matters...

Though they may not be familiar with his story yet, the kids at your VBS can relate to Hezekiah. It’s likely that they know what it’s like when circumstances seem too big and overwhelming and it feels like the world has turned against them. God doesn’t promise to take away our problems...but he *does* promise to be with us, holding us through each one. Today, share your own stories of how you’ve found comfort in God’s presence. As Isaiah did for Hezekiah, be the voice of God’s reassuring comfort when life’s worries press in.



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Stress Reliever

Place several drops of vanilla on your play dough, and mix it into the dough, giving the dough a vanilla scent.

Invite preschoolers to squish and smell the play dough, observing the scent and feel. Encourage them to talk about things that comfort them.

Say: Squishing this dough between our fingers and smelling its delicious scent is comforting. Today we can go to God for comfort. **God comforts us.** (You are treasured!)



Supplies

- ◆ play dough
- ◆ vanilla extract or essential oil

Treasure Tip

Remind preschoolers that even though the dough smells yummy, it isn't for eating!

Supplies

- ◆ pillows or beanbag chairs
- ◆ snuggly blankets
- ◆ picture books
- ◆ soft music

Get Some R&R

Encourage kids to spend time resting and enjoying some peace in the rest and relaxation area.

Say: God made us to rest sometimes and feel comfort from him. **God comforts us.** (You are treasured!) Enjoy some relaxing time in this comfy area.



Supplies

- ◆ blocks
- ◆ toy figures

Circle of Protection

Help kids make a circular wall of protection so their toy figures can be protected on the inside. Encourage kids to see how tall they can make the protection circle without knocking it down.

Say: You made a circle of protection to help your toys feel safe. In the Bible story today, we'll hear how God kept King Hezekiah safe. God comforted King Hezekiah when he was scared. **God comforts us,** too! (You are treasured!)

