

## Small Group Meeting week 7 on Isaiah 36-38

### Review (20mins)

Reflect together on your experiences over the last week. What has God been teaching you? Where have you been growing in your walk with Him? Had you set yourself a challenge in your discipleship? How is that going? Share those experiences with your small group.

### Read (10mins)

Recap on the sermon from last Sunday. Try to give a summary to those who were not able to be present.

### **Isaiah 36:1-37:7; 37:14-20, 36-38**

Read the Bible passage for this week, slowly and prayerfully. (These verses form part of an overall narrative; you may want to read the whole of chapters 36 and 37.)

It might help to use your imagination to picture the scene, or have different readers read the different voices. 'Setting the Scene' below gives an overview of the two chapters.

As you read, look out for *shockers* and *blockers*.

*Shockers* – a phrase, word, image or something from the text that resonates, stands out or connects with you.

*Blockers* – something from the text that raises questions for you.

### **Setting the scene:**

- This week we return to the Assyrian threat - a fuller account can be found in 2 Kings 18:13-19:37.

- In the book of Isaiah chapters 28-35 we find prophetic insight that when the showdown between Judah, Egypt and Assyria reaches its height there will be a clear demonstration of God's sovereignty.
- So now that the troops are literally at the gates of Jerusalem what will happen?
- 36:1-22 First challenge to Hezekiah and Jerusalem  
 37:1-7 Hezekiah hands the problem to Isaiah  
 37:8 Assyrians distracted by problems elsewhere leave Jerusalem  
 37:9-13 The Assyrians return, sending a message to Hezekiah repeating their boasts and taunts  
 37:14-20 Hezekiah responds in prayer  
 37:21-35 Isaiah speaks words of reassurance  
 37:36-38 The Assyrian threat is dealt with  
 38:1-22 Hezekiah becomes ill and is healed

## Reflect (20 mins)

After you have all had time to read the text, pause and be still to listen to God through the Scriptures.

Begin your reflection time by each naming your *shockers* and *blockers*. Listen carefully to each other, share your thoughts and reflect on this passage together.

You might also like to explore these questions:

Q1. On what grounds does Sennacherib suggest that the people cannot trust either Hezekiah or Yahweh – and is there any truth in them?

Q2. What doubts distract you from praying – is there any truth in them?

Q3. On what grounds does Hezekiah base his prayer?

Q4. What is the basis for your confidence when you pray?

## Respond (20mins)

As you draw near to the end of your session, consider how you might respond to your reading and reflection by “walking the talk”. What are you going to be doing this week that will help you stretch the faith you have? It may be a challenge or activity that you are currently engaged with over many weeks. Be prepared to share how you are growing in that.

### Some new challenge ideas

**1 “Now, LORD our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you, LORD, are the only God” (37:20)**

Reflecting on this verse, write some prayers which reach from your local situation to ‘all the kingdoms of the earth’

**2 “LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth” (37:16)**

Spend time turning these words into prayers or songs of praise, and let them give you boldness in praying.

## Group Prayer

As a group, pray for one another this week as you explore a deeper life with God through prayer. Pray that your times of prayer and your attempt to walk in the light of God’s ways will increase and become more habitual throughout each day.