

There are times in our lives when we call out in desperation to God. Isaiah 38 presents an intimate account of King Hezekiah's life-threatening illness and God's compassionate response to prayer. Confronted with death, Hezekiah weeps and honestly pours out his heart to God, who then grants him fifteen more years of life and confirms His promise with a miraculous sign. The chapter includes Hezekiah's personal reflection, moving from despair to gratitude and renewed trust. For readers today, Isaiah 38 invites personal application by encouraging honest prayer in times of crisis, reminding us that God hears our cries, governs our days, and can bring hope and purpose even in moments of fear, weakness, and uncertainty.

Take some time as a group to reflect upon parts of Psalm 23 and wait upon the Lord.

Read Isaiah 38:1-10, 15-22

1. How does Hezekiah respond physically and spiritually to the news he receives?
2. What does Hezekiah appeal to in his prayer (v. 3)? 1 Kings 3:6; Nehemiah 1:8; Psalm 26:1
3. What does this passage teach about God hearing emotional, honest prayer? See Psalm 34:17; Psalm 145:18
4. When have you prayed with the same honesty Hezekiah shows here?

5. What does Hezekiah's lament in verses 9–10 reveal about how people viewed death at this point in redemptive history? Compare: Psalm 88:3–5; Ecclesiastes 9:4–6
6. How does Hezekiah describe the fragility of life (vv. 12–13)? See also: Job 7:6; Psalm 39:4–5; James 4:14.
7. In verses 15–16, how does Hezekiah interpret his suffering after being healed? See also: Psalm 119:71; Romans 8:28; Hebrews 12:11.
8. What relationship does Hezekiah see between forgiveness and healing (v. 17)? Psalm 103:2–3; Mark 2:5–11; James 5:14–16.
9. What balance do you see between submitting to God's will and asking boldly? See also: 1 John 5:14–15
10. How does Hezekiah's attitude toward life change after God's intervention? Read Lamentations 3:31–33
11. How can gratitude for healing or deliverance shape your witness to others? Read Psalm 66:16; Mark 5:19
12. How should we pray when facing life-threatening situations?
13. How does Hezekiah's fear contrast with New Testament confidence about death?

Prayer Points

Continue to pray for the Limitless team and Braam as he leads the group. Pray for the young people who come to this open youth group and that the love of God is known.

Pray for those who continue to grieve and are undergoing treatment at this time. January continues to be a challenge for some in the church, and so pray for them.

BMS Prayer - Pray for Ludmila, Finance Manager of the Ukrainian Baptist Union, and her colleague Tanya. May God grant them both wisdom and strength as they serve in these key roles in the midst of ongoing war.

Sermon Notes

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001



BIBLE STUDY

January 25th 2026

Isaiah: Hezekiah's Pain and Saving Isaiah 38

The Book of Isaiah presents powerful prophetic visions that have helped to shape theology, especially regarding God's holiness, judgment, and redemption. Written in a time of political turmoil, Isaiah foretells both near and distant events. Many prophecies have been fulfilled in history and in the life of Jesus Christ. Isaiah predicted the fall of Babylon, the return of Israel from exile, and the rise of Cyrus of Persia by name. Most notably, Isaiah 53 describes a suffering servant whose rejection, suffering, and redemptive death closely parallel the New Testament accounts of Jesus, reinforcing Isaiah's enduring significance.

This series will help us to be faithful as we renew our focus upon the Lord, and fruitful as He fulfills His word.