

Hezekiah and the Assyrian Deception

By Kathy Applebee

Scripture based on: 2 Chronicles 29-33 and Isaiah 36-39

Recommended Ages/ target audience: any, options given to include non- or beginning readers

Ideal Group Size: 6-12

Suggested Time: 10 minutes introduction, 60 minutes playing time, wrap up and extension activities will add more time depending on what is chosen.

STORY: You get a call from Professor Arti Phact of the Museum of Ancient History. The museum is opening a display that validates scripture via archeological finds.

Dr. Phact needs your help to thwart Apollyon. Apollyon, intent on destroying belief in God, has targeted a display of Assyrian artifacts but instead of trying to steal an artifact this time (like they did in the Pilate Inscription Break Out), they have changed the displays. Their hope is to provide one piece of misleading information in order to discredit all the evidence that the Bible is true.

Dr. Phact needs you to unlock the container holding the real display info, and swap it with the misleading display information. Just as Dr. Phact is about to tell you exactly what to do, his cell phone dies. The museum opens in one hour. Can you use the clues available to open the container to get out the real display label, switch it with the fake and remove the fake document?

Lock Combinations: What codes will open the locks on the box?

5 letter lock prays (from letter to Hezekiah containing fake list)

3 number combo 140 (formula on chalkboard and answers filled in chart)

4 number combo 4821 (from for, ate, to, won highlighted with UV pen on the multi-page Hezekiah document)

4 shape or direction square triangle north south (rebus puzzles)

OPTIONAL: 2 Regular keys and locks

Setup Instructions:

1. Print the materials
2. Cut the riddle clues apart from the rebus puzzles. Cut the rebus portion of the sheet into 6 pieces lengthwise. Put two non-contiguous pieces in the large break out box and the others scattered about the room to relate to the riddles. Cut the riddles apart and hide in room.
3. You may wish to make multiple copies of the Hezekiah by the Numbers sheet so several people can work on it simultaneously. It can also be distributed as "homework" the day before to shorten the amount of time allowed to break out.
4. Post the chalkboard picture (or rewrite the equations on a real chalkboard) and Assyrian Flag.
 - a. Hide one of the rebus strips partially behind the flag.
 - b. Hide one rebus strip in a shoe
 - c. Hide one under a table
 - d. Hide one in a bookcase or bookshelf. Hide UV light finder here.
5. Print Hezekiah artifact papers. 1-3 are the REAL ones. 4 is fake. The 5th one need not be printed unless you wish to use it to explain why 4 is a fake. Post 1-3
6. Put the "prize", page 4 ("real" lion hunt display label) in the small break out box and lock with the 5 letter combo lock. Put in large break out box.
7. Put hasp on large Breakout box and lock with the 3 and 4 number combo lock and shape lock. OPTIONAL: If you have many non-readers, young players, hide 2 keys with the riddles at table and shoe and add 2 regular locks that these keys will unlock. This gives younger players a chance to participate.
8. OPTIONAL: Position the large breakout box behind or under something so players must find it.
9. Use UV marker to mark the 6 page Hezekiah document in clues pack. Post document.

Hints: A separate hint sheet is included on the page with the Assyrian flag. They may be handed out randomly OR specifically for where players are stuck.

Reflection Questions:

1. What was the easiest clue? Toughest?
2. 1 Chronicles 16: 8-9, 12 says Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name;

make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced. When was this originally uttered? How would it be appropriate for Hezekiah and his praise team to quote this passage?

3. 2 Chronicles 30:12 states "the hand of God was on the people to give them unity of mind to carry out what the king and his officials had ordered, following the word of the Lord. How important was working together to open the boxes? How does this compare and contrast with Hezekiah restoring worship of God?

4. Read John 17:20- 23 ("My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— 23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.) and Ephesians 4:3 (Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.) and 1 Corinthians 12. How do these passages relate to working on a break out box and the situations described in Hezekiah's life?

5. Hezekiah encouraged the Levites and others. In 2 Chronicles 32: 7-8 he says "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him, for there is a greater power with us than with him. 8 With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles." And the people gained confidence from what Hezekiah the king of Judah said. Who do you know that encourages others like Hezekiah? How is this helpful? Did anyone encourage you during the break out? How did that affect other players? What could you use encouragement with? Who could you encourage this week?

6. Hezekiah responded to the Assyrian threat with both action and prayer. What can we learn from this example? How was his attitude toward God different than Sennacherib's?

Tags or Keywords: Assyria, Hezekiah, Chronicles, Kings, Old Testament, archeology, unity, working together, encouragement