

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

What is your favorite 80's or 90's song or show... or 00's show if you don't know the 80's!

Talk About it!

1. Read **John 16:33**, **1 Peter 5:8**, **2 Corinthians 2:11**, and **John 10:10**

a. How does the reality of problems, and the possibility that some could be a spiritual attack, affect you - and why do you think these things are in God's Word?

2. Read **2 Kings 18:19-20**

a. What kind of feeling does the Assyrian leader seem to want to produce in this moment? Why do you think spiritual attack can often make you feel unsafe?

3. Read **2 Kings 18:20-25**

a. What is the Assyrian leader trying to accomplish here? How have you seen or experienced spiritual attack creating confusion about your faith, faith leaders, and even about God?

4. Read **2 Kings 18:26-37**

a. How do you think the threats and humiliation from the Assyrian leader affected Hezekiah's people? How have you seen or experienced the enemy's tactics to intimidate and threaten, and entice with temptations?

5. Read **James 4:7**, **2 Timothy 1:7**, and **Proverbs 18:10**

a. When spiritual attack comes, what is our position, and how does God want us to respond?

6. Read **Isaiah 40:31**

a. How does this promise speak life to you? In what way are you claiming this promise - and what do you need God's help to rise and soar over?

Scripture Reference (Questions 2-4)

2 KINGS 18:5-18 NLT

19 Then the Assyrian king's chief of staff told them to give this message to Hezekiah:

"This is what the great king of Assyria says: What are you trusting in that makes you so confident?"

20 Do you think that mere words can substitute for military skill and strength? Who are you counting on, that you have rebelled against me? **21** On Egypt? If you lean on Egypt, it will be like a reed that splinters beneath your weight and pierces your hand. Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, is completely unreliable!

22 "But perhaps you will say to me, 'We are trusting in the Lord our God!' But isn't he the one who was insulted by Hezekiah? Didn't Hezekiah tear down his shrines and altars and make everyone in Judah and Jerusalem worship only at the altar here in Jerusalem?"

23 "I'll tell you what! Strike a bargain with my master, the king of Assyria. I will give you 2,000 horses if you can find that many men to ride on them! **24** With your tiny army, how can you think of challenging even the weakest contingent of my master's troops, even with the help of Egypt's chariots and charioteers? **25** What's more, do you think we have invaded your land without the Lord's direction? The Lord himself told us, 'Attack this land and destroy it!'"

26 Then Eliakim son of Hilkiah, Shebna, and Joah said to the Assyrian chief of staff, "Please speak to us in Aramaic, for we understand it well. Don't speak in Hebrew, for the people on the wall will hear."

27 But Sennacherib's chief of staff replied, "Do you think my master sent this message only to you and your master? He wants all the people to hear it, for when we put this city under siege, they will suffer along with you. They will be so hungry and thirsty that they will eat their own dung and drink their own urine."

28 Then the chief of staff stood and shouted in Hebrew to the people on the wall, "Listen to this message from the great king of Assyria! **29** This is what the king says: Don't let Hezekiah deceive you. He will never be able to rescue you from my power. **30** Don't let him fool you into trusting in the Lord by saying, 'The Lord will surely rescue us. This city will never fall into the hands of the Assyrian king!'"

31 "Don't listen to Hezekiah! These are the terms the king of Assyria is offering: Make peace with me—open the gates and come out. Then each of you can continue eating from your own grapevine and fig tree and drinking from your own well. **32** Then I will arrange to take you to another land like this one—a land of grain and new wine, bread and vineyards, olive groves and honey. Choose life instead of death!

"Don't listen to Hezekiah when he tries to mislead you by saying, 'The Lord will rescue us!' **33** Have the gods of any other nations ever saved their people from the king of Assyria? **34** What happened to the gods of Hamath and Arpad? And what about the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivvah? Did any god rescue Samaria from my power? **35** What god of any nation has ever been able to save its people from my power? So what makes you think that the Lord can rescue Jerusalem from me?"

36 But the people were silent and did not utter a word because Hezekiah had commanded them, "Do not answer him."

37 Then Eliakim son of Hilkiah, the palace administrator; Shebna the court secretary; and Joah son of Asaph, the royal historian, went back to Hezekiah. They tore their clothes in despair, and they went in to see the king and told him what the Assyrian chief of staff had said.

Scripture Reference (Questions 1, 5-6)

JOHN 16:33 NLT

33 I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”

1 PETER 5:8 NLT

8 Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

2 CORINTHIANS 2:11 NLT

11 so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes.

JOHN 10:10 NLT

10 The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

JAMES 4:7

7 So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

2 TIMOTHY 1:7

7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

PROVERBS 18:10

10 The name of the Lord is a strong fortress; the godly run to him and are safe.

ISAIAH 40:31

31 But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.