Prayer you wish you hadn't prayed
2 KINGS 20

Lean In
1. Would you like to know the exact date when you will die? What difference would it make in how you lived now?

Look Down
Read 2 Kings 20

2. What problem did Hezekiah have? What did Isaiah tell him about it? What did Hezekiah do about it (v.1-3)?

3. What was the basis of Hezekiah's prayer (v.3)? How does this contrast with his prayer in 2 Kings 19:19?

4. What promise did God make to Hezekiah in response to his prayer (v.5-6)? Why would God 'defend this city' (v.6)? How does this contrast with Hezekiah's request in v.3?

5. What sign did God give King Hezekiah concerning his promise that he will recover (v.9)? Do you think this sign was symbolic?

6. Read 2 Kings 21:1-15

    a. What happened in the last 15 years of Hezekiah's life according to v.1?

    b. List Manasseh's behaviour in v.1-15

    c. Find as many references to the people of Judah as you can in 21:7-15.

    d. How do these help explain why Manasseh was able to make such a total reversal of his father's reforms?

7. According 2 Kings 20:12-21 (and Isaiah 39), what else happened in the last 15 years of Hezekiah's life? What mistake did Hezekiah make with his visitors from Babylon? How are these events another form of "Manasseh?"

8. Look back at Hezekiah's situation in 20:1-11. If Hezekiah could have known the future, including the birth of his son, do you think he would have wanted God to add fifteen years to his life? Why or why not?

Look Out
9. Have you ever seen or heard a prayer somebody wished they hadn't prayed? What did the "Manasseh(s)" look like?

Look In
10. Have you based your prayers on your own walk or merits?

11. *"If you insist on your own way with God, he might give it to you. You might never know the consequences of it..."* Is there an area of your life where you need to pray "Lord, your will be done"? How can your group support you in that area?

12. Looking back at your life, what "Manasseh(s)" might have God spared you from by not giving you what you asked for?