

Poem. Let three children each recite one verse from Psalm 14:1-3.

Let the older children write poems, songs or dramas about people being renewed spiritually. They can work together to do this, and they can also do this work at home.

O people of Israel,

Return to the LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, that he may turn again to the remnant of you who have escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria. Do not be like your fathers and your brothers, who were faithless to the LORD God of their fathers, so that he made them a desolation, as you see. Do not now be stiff-necked as your fathers were, but yield yourselves to the LORD and come to his sanctuary, which he has consecrated forever, and serve the LORD your God, that his fierce anger may turn away from you. For if you return to the LORD, your brothers and your children will find compassion with their captors and return to this land. For the LORD your God is gracious and merciful and will not turn away his face from you, if you return to him.

King Hezekiah

Prayer: “Lord, we, too, have been stubborn and unfaithful like the people of Israel. We praise you that you always hear us when we repent. You bless us greatly, when we celebrate together.”

Working Together to Serve God

Prayer: “Dear God, help the Children to renew their faith by turning from sin to serve you.”

Choose any of these children's learning activities that fit their needs and ages.

Let an older child or a teacher read or tell about King Hezekiah, from **2 Chronicles chapter 30**.

- This story shows how a king sent teachers to his people, and brought revival to his people.

After telling the story, ask these **questions**. [Answers appear after each question.]

- Who invited all the people to come worship God by celebrating the Passover feast in Jerusalem? [Answer: See verse 1.]
How did the king send out this invitation? [Answer: See verse 10. He sent messengers.]
- How did some of the people respond? [Answer: See verse 11.]
- Who gave some of the people their desire to respond well? [Answer: See verse 12.]
- In what way did the people put into practice what they had heard from God's Word? [Answer: See verse 14.]
- Under what other king's reign had they last celebrated the Passover this way? [Answer: See verse 26.]

Dramatize parts of the story of King Hezekiah who brought renewal to his people. Arrange with the leader of the main congregational worship to present this brief drama. Use your time with the children to prepare the drama. Let the older children help the younger.

- Let **older children** or adults play these roles:

Narrator. Summarize the story and help the children remember what to say and do.

King Hezekiah. Have papers in your hands.

- Let **younger children** play these roles:

King's messenger

Scoffer

People who heed the message

Priest

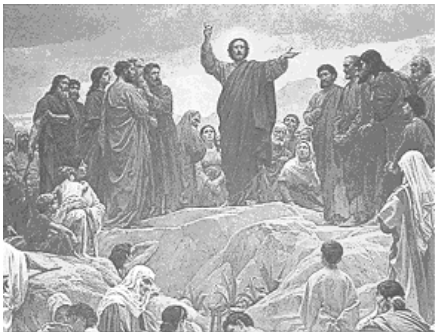
Narrator: Tell the first part of the story, from 2 Chronicles 30:1-12. Say, "Hear what King Hezekiah commands."

King Hezekiah: "Messengers, go to all the towns of Israel. Give them this message. Come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover feast. We all need to repent and receive God's blessing."

King's messenger: Walk up to different persons in the audience. Say, "Repent and come to Jerusalem for the Passover!"

Scoffer: "That is too far to go. We will not go!"

People who heed the message: "Yes. God will help us to repent. We will go!"



Hezekiah's messengers taught the people.

Narrator: Tell the second part of the story, from 2 Chronicles 30:13-27. Then say, "Hear what the people say."

People who heed the message: "We have come to Jerusalem for the Passover. We want to serve the one true God. Let us destroy all the idols and altars around here!"

King Hezekiah: "I will provide all that we need for this great feast! Let us be encouraged! If we repent, then God will hear our prayers!"

Priest: "It is good to rejoice together! Let us celebrate a second week! There has not been a revival like this since the time of King Solomon!"

Narrator or older child: Explain that the drama is over and thank those who helped.

Ask questions. If the children dramatize this story for the adults, then let them also ask the adults the same questions that are listed above.

Discuss examples of other people who have done what King Hezekiah did:

- What other people have taken the message of repentance to people who needed God?
- At what times do God's people gather and pray and celebrate together, now?

Draw a picture of a letter with a message, for the children to copy. Let them show their pictures to the adults at the next worship time or to parents at home. Let them explain that this illustrates how we take the message of repentance to other people, so that we can all pray and seek God together. Let the older children help the younger.

Memorize Philippians 2:2-3.