

ST PAUL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



THE STORY

OUR JOURNEY TO THE HEART OF GOD'S STORY

SUNDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2019



THE BEGINNING OF THE END (OF THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL)

(Chapter 16 – Part One)

A Key Thought:

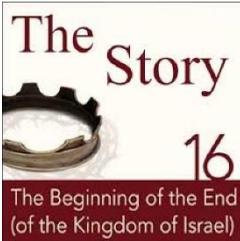
No situation is truly hopeless where God is involved. He specializes in doing the impossible for the sake of this people.

In 722 BC the kingdom of Israel fell to the Assyrian Empire, with its inhabitants then dispersed far and wide. About twenty years later it seemed that Judah faced the same fate. But against seemingly impossible odds, Hezekiah took a stand and trusted in God's promise to protect the city of Jerusalem. Hezekiah's faith was rewarded when God intervened – the enormous Assyrian army was decimated (possibly by a mystery illness) as they camped outside the city overnight. God's promise of a future Messiah was carried forward, when all seemed lost. Our God is the God of the impossible! No human odds, however large, can counter God's plans and God's promises.

Read today's Bible passage (1 Kings 18-19) on pages 220-224 of the *Story* book.



Contact **Dennis Clark** on **0438 895 056** with enquiries or if you wish to join a group



Read Reflect Relate to God and others

There's being hopeful ... and then there's REAL hope. The world's hope is an optimism about a particular event or a vague yearning for something good. Not addressed is who or what will make that good happen. Christian hope is different because it is grounded in God. Knowing the Lord of the heavens and the earth gives us confidence that no worldly outcome is the end of the story, and that God has good in store for us. God's promises are not wishful thinking – they are sure commitments that we can base our lives on, even as wait for them to unfold. That is the kind of hope that led Hezekiah to take a stand against the Assyrians, when surrender seemed the sensible option. God assured Hezekiah that God would “defend this city and save it” ... and God did ... without any need for a human army at all. Is there a life situation in which you are being called to show the same sort of hope and faith? Have you laid out your challenges before the Lord, as did Hezekiah? God takes delight in the prayers of his people, and with him there is always a new way and another day.

READ pages 219-224 of *The Story*.

REFLECT on these questions:



Have you ever been tempted to give into worldly pressures rather than taking a stand for God's truth and honor? What have you learnt from that experience?



Re-read Hezekiah's prayer to the Lord while in in temple. What gave him confidence that the Lord would deliver him? What gives you confidence as a follower of Jesus?

RELATE – Write a list of big challenges which face you and/or other Christians you know. Lay your list out before the Lord each day this week, asking him to display his glory by intervening on your/their behalf.



FAITH ACTS IN THE HOME

15 – 21 SEPTEMBER 2019

This week's theme:

With God, no situation is hopeless.

*Every night in
every home ...*



SHARE

highs and lows



READ

a Bible verse or
story



TALK

about how the Bible
might relate to your
highs and lows



PRAY

for one another's
highs and lows



BLESS

one another

DAILY BIBLE VERSES

Sunday — 2 Kings 19:19

Hezekiah prayed, "Now, Lord our God, save us from the king's power so that all the kingdoms of the earth will know that you, Lord, are the only God."

Monday — Luke 1:37

"Nothing is impossible for God!"

Tuesday — Jeremiah 32:17

Oh, Lord God, you made the skies and the earth with your very great power. There is nothing too hard for you to do.

Wednesday — Job 42:2

"I know that you can do anything. No one can keep you from doing what you plan to do."

Thursday — Luke 18:27

Jesus answered, "The things impossible for people are possible for God."

Friday — Romans 8:31

So what should we say about this? If God is for us, no one can defeat us.

Saturday — Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ, because he gives me strength.



- Have you ever felt like you were in a hopeless situation, but then it all turned out OK? In what ways did you see God at work?
- Hezekiah took his impossible situation to God in the temple. What can we learn from Hezekiah's example?
- What reasons are there to trust that God is going to help us through difficult times?



*Mealttime
Prayer*

**SEE, GOD IS OUR
HELPER. IT IS GOD
WHO UPHOLDS OUR
LIVES. PRAISE BE TO
GOD!**

A BLESSING TO SHARE

***May God's loving promises give you
hope at all times and in all places.
Amen.***

