

Focus Points

"Focus Points" are short activities that draw students into the lesson. They take only a few minutes to do. Many can be used as quick-start activities to engage the students and focus their attention at the beginning of class. Others may fit well during the lesson to reinforce a point and drive it home. Still others may serve as good wrap-up activities. "Focus Points" come in many forms. Choose and use them as you see fit.

For example, the following activity can be used to introduce or review key events in the life and reign of King Hezekiah. It is a thought provoker.

Focus Point – King Hezekiah: Putting it in Order

This activity has four parts. Each part is a set of events that relate to something important in King Hezekiah's reign. Number each set of events in order.

Spiritual Reforms

- ___ The nation is commanded to bring tithes and firstfruits to sustain the priests and Levites.
- ___ Observance of the Passover and other holy days is reinstated.
- ___ The priests and Levites are sanctified.
- ___ The temple is cleansed.

Under Attack

- ___ The Assyrian army is destroyed outside Jerusalem in a Passover-like deliverance of God's people.
- ___ The Assyrians invade Judah and begin capturing its cities, deporting Jews to Babylon and elsewhere.
- ___ The Assyrians lay siege to Jerusalem. The Rabshakeh tries to intimidate the city into surrender.
- ___ Hezekiah goes to the temple to pray for the deliverance of Jerusalem. Isaiah also prays.
- ___ Jerusalem prepared its defenses. King Hezekiah's tunnel is built to provide the city with water.

Deathly Sick

- ___ Isaiah the prophet tells King Hezekiah that he will die.
- ___ King Hezekiah becomes terminally ill.
- ___ King Hezekiah miraculously recovers and 15 years are added to his life.
- ___ King Hezekiah prays and is told by Isaiah that God will deliver both him and the city of Jerusalem.
- ___ The shadow returns ten degrees (steps) on the dial of Ahaz.

The Last 15 Years

- ___ Hezekiah dies and is buried with great honor in Jerusalem.
- ___ Hezekiah falls into the sin of pride, along with Judah and Jerusalem. Isaiah prophesies that they will go into captivity in Babylon.
- ___ Hezekiah repents, and God's judgment against him and the nation is deferred.
- ___ Manasseh is born to King Hezekiah and his wife Hephzibah.
- ___ Merodach-baladan sends ambassadors to King Hezekiah from Babylon to honor the king.

Order of "Spiritual Reforms" = 4, 3, 2, 1. Order of "Under Attack" = 5, 1, 3, 4, 2. Order of "Deathly Sick" = 2, 1, 5, 3, 4. Order of "The Last 15 Years" = 5, 2, 3, 4(?), 1.