

The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – August 29-Sept 3
Here are 6 Thoughts for More Effective Prayer from a Stressed
Out Leader Named Hezekiah:

MONDAY: Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16; John 6:15

KEY VERSE: 2 Kings 19:14

OBSERVATION: 1. Hezekiah got alone with God. There is corporate prayer like we do at church, and there is prayer where a few are gathered. But probably some of the most effective prayer time of your life will be the time you invest alone with God. What is your practice when it comes to getting alone with God?

TUESDAY: I Timothy 2:1; 2 Chronicles 6:21

KEY VERSE: 2 Kings 19:14

OBSERVATION: Hezekiah's prayer was immediate. His prayer wasn't an afterthought. It was prior to making his plans. We are so geared to react as leaders that it's hard for us to go first to God. He may be second or third or first when we are backed into a corner and have no choice, but we need to develop a discipline and habit to make God the first place we turn in our lives. Like Hezekiah. When was the last time that the first thing you did is Pray? How did it effect the situation?

WEDNESDAY: James 3:17; Luke 8:16; 2 Timothy 2:15

KEY VERSE: 2 Kings 19:15-18

OBSERVATION: Hezekiah's prayer was open and honest. Hezekiah was transparent before the Lord. I love the imagery here in this prayer story of Hezekiah. He took the letter, went to the house of the Lord, and spread it out before Him. I get this visual image of Hezekiah, and this letter—laying it there on the table, and saying, "Okay, God, what now? What do I do next? What's my first move?" What was the last honest thing you said to God?

THURSDAY: Philippians 2:3; James 4:10; Proverbs 22:4

KEY VERSE: 2 Kings 19:15

OBSERVATION: Hezekiah's prayer was honoring, humble, and respectful of who God is. Hezekiah knew his place as king—and he knew God's place in the Kingdom. Hezekiah was king of a nation and that is an important job, yet Hezekiah willingly humbled himself in prayer, because he knew his place before the King of kings. How can you speak out humility to God? How do you do that in your daily Prayers?

FRIDAY: 1 John 5:14; Matthew 21:22; Mark 11:24

KEY VERSE: 2 Kings 19:16

OBSERVATION: Hezekiah's prayer was bold. He said, "Give ear, O LORD, and hear; open your eyes, O LORD...." Hezekiah had the kind of relationship with God where it wasn't a surprise when Hezekiah showed up to pray. They talked frequently; probably throughout the day. Because of that relationship, Hezekiah didn't wonder if God would be there when he came before Him. He knew he could ask God to act on his behalf. Do you have any bold prayers that you are offering up to God?

SATURDAY: Isaiah 41:13; Psalm 121-1-2; Isaiah 40:29

KEY VERSE: 2 Kings 19:19

OBSERVATION: Hezekiah's prayer was dependent. In verses 17–18 he prays, "It is true, O LORD, that the Assyrian kings have laid waste these nations and their lands." Hezekiah knew he was out of his league facing the Assyrians. From the way I see that Hezekiah responded to life, however, I don't think it mattered the size of the battle. Hezekiah was going to depend on God. Every time. In every situation. What would life look like if you placed 100% of your dependence on God? How would your life be different?