



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 12: God Hears

Suggested Week of Use: August 21, 2022

Core Passage: 2 Kings 19:10-19,32-34

News Story Summaries

Levi Stock, 11, was boating with his family on Hillsborough Bay near Tampa. Seeing storm clouds approaching, the family headed back to the boat ramp. As they were preparing to land, Levi was struck by lightning and fell into the water. His dad jumped in, got him to shore, and started CPR. At the hospital ten hours later, Levi regained consciousness wondering where he was and what had happened. When he heard he had been struck by lightning, he was amazed that he had survived. Within four days, Levi was discharged from the hospital. While he's received good-natured teasing from others who want him to give them lottery numbers because of his good luck, Levi attributes his recovery to prayer. "I am really thankful for the people who prayed. God set up everything to save me, especially my dad who jumped in and saved me," he said. "God never stops helping people. I have a big story to tell." Unfortunately, Levi's confidence in prayer is not shared by everyone. A recent Gallup poll found that only 42 percent of Americans who believe in God also believe He hears prayers and intervenes in the lives of people. Another 28 percent think He hears but does not—or cannot—act.

For more on these stories, search "Levi Stock miraculous recovery" and "Belief in God dips."

Focus Attention

To replace **FOCUS ATTENTION**, ask: *When has God answered a big prayer for you?* Allow a few volunteers to share their responses. Be prepared to share an example you're your own life. Ask: *What percentage of God-believing Americans do you think believe God hears prayers and intervenes in people's lives?* After the group's responses, share the result from the recent Gallup poll. Say: *A boy in Florida would disagree with those people.* Share the story of Levi Stock. Say: *Today we'll see that a king named Hezekiah, like Levi, also believed in the power of prayer.*

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement **SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE**, ask: *What seems most troubling about the number of people who don't believe God responds to our prayers?* Allow volunteers to share their responses. Recall Levi Stock's story, emphasizing his comment that he had a big story to tell. Ask: *How is Levi's story an encouragement to us in our prayer lives? How can that empower us to tell others about Jesus?* Encourage the group to be open with others about how God answers their prayers, whether in big ways or little ways, and to use those opportunities to tell others about Jesus. Close with prayer, thanking God that He hears and answers our prayers.