

## **SUMMER BIBLE STORIES**

### **A Tail of Two Kings: Hoshea and Hezekiah**

#### **Historical setting and background:**

- Kingdom is divided
- Hoshea ruling as King in the North (Israel)
- Hezekiah ruling as King in the South (Judah)

**Both Kings faced opposition from the Assyrians, but only one kept his faith and trust in God for protection and deliverance.**

**Hoshea kept God in the background and put his trust in earthly things.**

**Hezekiah kept God in the forefront and put his trust in what only God could do.**

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# GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY

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## 2 Kings 18:1-8

In the third year of Hoshea son of Elah, king of Israel, Hezekiah the son of Ahaz, king of Judah, began to reign. <sup>2</sup> He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abi the daughter of Zechariah. <sup>3</sup> And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, according to all that David his father had done. <sup>4</sup> He removed the high places and broke the pillars and cut down the Asherah. And he broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the people of Israel had made offerings to it (it was called Nehushtan). <sup>5</sup> He trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel, so that there was none like him among all the kings of Judah after him, nor among those who were before him. <sup>6</sup> For he held fast to the Lord. He did not depart from following him, but kept the commandments that the Lord commanded Moses. <sup>7</sup> And the Lord was with him; wherever he went out, he prospered. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and would not serve him. <sup>8</sup> He struck down the Philistines as far as Gaza and its territory, from watchtower to fortified city.