

Use the following growth group discussion questions to deepen your relationship with God, his word and others.

**ICEBREAKER QUESTION:** Have you ever you suffered unjust consequence or been “let off the hook” when you deserved a consequence for your actions?

1. Why did God send the northern kingdom into captivity (*2 Kings 17:7-17*)? Compare God’s actions against Israel to Moses’ warning in *Deut. 28:45-50; 30:1-5*. What do you discover?
2. God frequently reminded Israel of examples of faithfulness (p. 219). What past experiences have you had that remind you of God’s faithfulness (*Romans 8:31*)?
3. How have you seen people respond when they receive just consequences for sinful actions? How should a Christian respond?
4. King Sennacherib sent his envoy to Jerusalem to persuade King Hezekiah to surrender peacefully, claiming he came on the LORD’s orders (p. 221). How do you evaluate people who claim to have a word from the LORD?
5. What is King Hezekiah’s view of YHWH the God of Israel (p. 223)? What is the result of a correct understanding of God?
6. Isaiah’s vision of God in the temple made him realize that he was a sinner. Compare his response with Peter’s in *Luke 5:8* and John’s in *Rev. 1:17*. What are the implications?
7. According to Isaiah’s prophecy (pp. 225-226), what was the southern kingdom of Judah like? What did he say that God would do as a result?
8. How did Zion react to Isaiah’s prophecy (pp. 227-228)?
9. What do the qualities of the Suffering Servant teach us about God’s Upper Story (pp. 228-230)? (See *Matthew 8:16-17, 26:63-67; 1 Peter 2:22-25; Romans 5:19; Luke 22:37* for further insights).

## LISTENING FOR GOD

16/31 in the series The Story  
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After 39 kings and many prophets, the people just would not listen. But where exactly did God speak from? Where should we be listening intently for God’s voice in our own lives? By way of one of the very few great kingly examples, we will learn to listen for God’s voice. God communicated in three distinct ways:

1. **God uses people to communicate** - (*2 Chronicles 34:3, 2 Kings 23:25*). We are surrounded by voices. Choose to listen to the right voices.
2. **God most clearly communicates through his Word** - (*2 Kings 22:8-11; 23:1-8; 2 Timothy 3:16*). God’s Word must always be the most influential voice in a believer’s life.
3. **God uses circumstances/consequences to communicate** - (*Ezekiel 37:1-14*). Sometimes when our life is over, it has really only begun anew.

### Conclusion

Are you listening to the right voices?  
Are you the voice of God for others?

**NEXT WEEK 17/31: THE STORY CHAPTER 17  
AND THEY ALL FALL DOWN**