

Cancer. Even the word can make us uneasy because we've seen its devastating effects. Not only are there physical implications, but the relational toll is extreme as well. This past week, George Franco shared his personal experience with cancer and showed us, through the life of King Hezekiah, how God is bigger than any physical disease. In this study we will talk about our experiences with life-changing illnesses such as cancer and commit to a response of faith.

What Do You Think?

- Have you ever felt the weight of the world on your shoulders because life seemed out of control? Maybe it was cancer or maybe it was something else. What was that like?
- As George shared, 40% of people in the United States will receive a cancer diagnosis at some point in their life. It is the #2 cause of death in the world. Why do you think it is so scary to hear the word "cancer?" Without faith in God, how do you see people deal with this kind of fear?

“In those days Hezekiah became sick and was at the point of death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came to him and said to him, “Thus says the Lord, “Set your house in order, for you shall die; you shall not recover.””
2 Kings 20:1 (ESV)

What Does God Say?

- **Read 2 Kings 18:1-7 then 2 Kings 20:1.** Hezekiah chose to honor God, yet he still got sick. In the message we were reminded that bad things happen to everyone. Why is this? Why wouldn't God keep those who follow Him from harm?
- **Read 2 Kings 20:2-3 and Psalm 56:3.** When things are out of control, turn to the One who is in control. What do you think this looks like when it comes to an illness like cancer? *Try not to give a standard “church answer.” How does it play out in real life?*

“Turn back, and say to Hezekiah the leader of my people, ‘Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father: I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. Behold, I will heal you.’” 2 Kings 20:5a (ESV)

- **Read 2 Kings 20:4-5.** It is good to know that God cares for us, especially when we are hurting. God is compassionate in our suffering. **Read Psalm 116:1-13.** Have you seen this make a difference for yourself or someone else? What would it be like were it not true?
- **Read 2 Kings 20:6-7 and Romans 8:18-28.** This week we learned that it’s not over until it’s good. God not only healed Hezekiah, but He also committed to protect the nation. In John 9, Jesus said a man fell ill so God’s glory could be revealed through Him. How can God use cancer for His glory? Have you seen it?

What Will You Do?

- Who do you know that is facing cancer or another life-threatening illness? What can you do to encourage them based on what we have discussed?
- Is there a situation in your life that these same principles are encouraging you to look at or respond to differently? What will you do?
- Pray for people specifically right now. Pray for healing and pray for peace. God can heal us of *all* of our disease, not just physical disease.