



# Lay the Letter Down!

By Deborah Wassenberg

## Introduction:

As children hear King Hezekiah's story, they'll learn a powerful truth for their own lives: when people say hurtful things, we can always go to God with them—just like Hezekiah did when he laid his letter down before the Lord.

**Bible Lesson: God Delivers Jerusalem from Assyria**  
**Bible References: 2 Kings 18:1-37; 2 Kings 19:1:37**

## Something Extra Special: Send Letters!

The week before you teach this lesson, send a personal letter to each child in your Children's Church. Let them know they'll soon hear the story of a very scary letter delivered to a king. Receiving real mail will delight them and build anticipation for the lesson. Here's an example draft...

**Dear \_\_\_\_\_,**

Guess what? I have a very special story to share with you next Sunday in Children's Church — and it all starts with a *letter*. Not an email. Not a text message. A real letter, delivered by real messengers, straight into the hands of a king!

But this wasn't a friendly letter. It was a *scary* one. I can't wait to tell you what the king did with that letter — and how God helped him in the most amazing way.

Next week, bring your listening ears and your brave heart. We're going to open the story together and discover what to do when someone says unkind things to us. See you soon!

**From, \_\_\_\_\_,**  
**Your Children's Church Leader**

## Visuals You Will Need:

1. Sealed letter (sitting on a snail if you'd like!)
2. Stamps
3. Child opening a letter
4. King Hezekiah
5. King Sennacherib
6. King Hezekiah and the letter in the Temple
7. The prophet Isaiah
8. God's people rejoicing
9. Child praying

## Words:

1. Long before phones, emails, and texting, people wrote messages on paper, rolled them up or folded them, and sealed them with wax.  
A messenger would walk, ride a horse, or even sail on a boat to deliver it.  
Sometimes it took days, weeks, or even months for a letter to arrive.  
That's why it's called 'snail mail' today!
2. In the early days, the person receiving the letter had to pay for it, which caused a lot of problems.  
So someone had the clever idea: 'What if the sender paid first?'  
That's how stamps were invented.  
A stamp showed that the delivery had already been paid for.  
Once stamps made sending letters easier and fairer, people everywhere began writing!
3. As more people wanted to send letters, counties started building post offices.  
Special buildings where people brought their letters.  
Workers sorted them, stamped them, and sent them all over the world.  
Today, post offices still help us send letters, birthday cards, parcels, and important papers.  
Even though we have phones and computers now, getting a real letter in your letterbox still feels exciting!
4. Hezekiah became king of Judah when he was still young, and he was different from most kings.  
He loved God, obeyed God, and removed idols from the land.  
The Bible says he trusted God more than any king before or after him.  
But there was a big problem.
5. A powerful enemy nation called Assyria was taking over countries everywhere.  
Their king, Sennacherib, was proud, cruel, and loved to frighten people.  
Eventually, the Assyrian army surrounded the cities of Judah, including Jerusalem.  
Sennacherib sent messengers to shout mean, scary things to the people on the walls:  
"Your king can't save you."  
"Your God can't save you."  
"Give up now!"  
King Hezekiah could have shouted back.  
He could have argued.  
He could have panicked.  
But he didn't do any of those things.  
The people were terrified, but King Hezekiah told them to 'hold your mouth'.  
He commanded the people to stay silent and trust God.

6. Then Sennacherib sent a letter to Hezekiah.  
The letter was mean, boastful and menacing.  
It was full of insults against God and threats against Judah.  
Hezekiah didn't shout back.  
He didn't argue.  
He didn't panic.  
He didn't pretend the letter wasn't scary.  
He didn't hide it.  
He didn't try to fix it himself.  
Instead, he went to the Temple, opened the letter, and laid it before the Lord.  
He prayed:  
"God, look at this. Hear what they are saying. Please help us."
  
7. Isaiah was a messenger from God—not the kind who delivered letters, but one who delivered God's messages by speaking what God told him to.  
He was a prophet who lived in Jerusalem during the reign of King Hezekiah.  
Isaiah was known for being brave, wise, and close to God.  
When people didn't know what to do, Isaiah listened to God and relayed His message to them.  
Isaiah sent a message from God to King Hezekiah:  
"Don't be afraid. I will defend this city."
  
8. That very night, God sent His angel to stop the Assyrian army.  
Sennacherib went home defeated, and Jerusalem was saved,  
not by fighting, but by trusting God!
  
9. Hezekiah trusted God even when things looked impossible.  
He took his problem to God – he 'laid the letter down'.  
God always hears and helps His people.  
When people say things that hurt you, take every hurt, every fear, and every mean word to God.  
He hears you, and He will fight for you!

## Ministry to the Children:

Sometimes people say bad, mean, or untrue things about us.  
Our first reaction is to:

- snap back
- argue
- say something just as mean
- tell everyone how wrong they are

If you are being bullied or feel unsafe, you must tell a safe adult straight away. You must not keep secrets about unsafe things. But remember, when someone sends you a 'mean letter', words that hurt, frighten, or discourage you, take it to God, too! Lay it down. Tell Him everything and trust Him.

God loves you. Not just a little bit—He loves you more than anyone else ever could. And you are important to Him. He made you, He sees you, and He cares about every part of your life. That's why God sent His Son, Jesus. Jesus came to take

away our sin—the wrong things we do—and to bring us close to God. We can't fix our sin by ourselves. We can't make our hearts clean on our own. But Jesus can. He is the only One who can save us and make us God's children. If you want Jesus to forgive your sin... If you want Him to live in your heart... If you want to belong to God and know Him as your Father... You can pray this simple prayer with me:

“Jesus, thank You for loving me.  
Thank You for dying for my sin.  
Please forgive me and make my heart clean.  
Come into my life and be my Saviour.  
I want to follow You.  
Thank You that I am important to You.  
Amen.”

If you prayed that prayer today, please come and tell a leader. We want to celebrate with you and help you grow in your new friendship with Jesus.

## Memory Verse: Psalm 34:17

The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; He delivers them from all their troubles.

### Special Delivery!

#### You will need:

- 8–12 envelopes (real ones make it feel official)
- Inside each envelope: one or two words from the Memory Verse
- A large sign that says **POST OFFICE**
- A leader dressed as a postie, and carrying a mailbag (optional)

#### What to do:

- Write the Memory Verse on a card for yourself so you can check accuracy.
- Put the verse words into envelopes—one word per envelope for older kids, two or three for younger kids.
- Hide the envelopes around the room OR place them in a “mailbox” at the front.
- Divide the children into two delivery teams.

#### How to play:

##### Round 1: Find the Mail

Tell the children:

“The Memory Verse has been mailed to us, but the envelopes got scattered. Your job is to find them and deliver them to the Post Office!”

On “GO,” children search for envelopes and bring them to the Post Office table.

### **Round 2: Sort the Mail**

Spread the envelopes out on the table.

Teams take turns opening one envelope at a time.

As each word is revealed, children must **sort the words into the correct order** to rebuild the Memory Verse.

### **Round 3: Deliver the Verse**

When they think the verse is in the right order, the team lines up.

Each child holds one envelope (or more if needed).

Together, they “deliver” the verse by stepping forward one at a time and reading their word aloud in order.

If they get it right, cheer loudly, and you might like to stamp their hand with an ink stamp!

## Game: ‘I Wrote a Letter’ (variation on Duck, Duck, Goose)

Everyone forms a circle, standing or sitting. One child with a letter walks or skips around the outside of the circle as the rhyme is chanted.

‘I sent a letter to my friend  
And on the way, I dropped it  
Someone must have picked it up  
And put it in their pocket  
It wasn’t you...  
It wasn’t you...  
It was you!’

As the child says, ‘It wasn’t you,’ he gently taps each player in the circle on the shoulder and repeats, ‘It wasn’t you,’ as many times as he likes, with him finally saying, ‘It was you!’ and dropping the letter on the ground behind the player. On ‘you’, the child who has the letter dropped behind them, picks it up and chases the ‘letter dropper’ around the circle to catch him. If the ‘letter dropper’ gets back into the chaser’s place without being caught, then he is safe, and the other child becomes the letter dropper. If she catches the ‘letter dropper’, he goes around the circle again.

## Craft 1: Paper Plate Mail Holder

### **You’ll need:**

- 2 sturdy paper plates
- Scissors
- Stapler or strong glue
- Markers, crayons, or paint
- Stickers or coloured paper (optional)
- Hole punch + string/ribbon (optional, for hanging)
- A label: “MAIL,” “POST,” or the child’s name

## What to do:

### 1. Prepare the Pocket

Take one paper plate and cut it in half.

This half-plate will become the front pocket where the mail goes.

### 2. Decorate First (much easier!)

Let kids decorate both the full and half plates before assembling.

Ideas:

- Draw a mailbox door
- Add pretend stamps
- Write "Special Delivery"
- Colour stripes or airmail borders

### 3. Assemble the Mail Holder

Place the half plate on top of the full plate, lining up the curved edges.

Staple around the sides and bottom of the half plate to create a pocket.

If you prefer glue, run a thick line around the edge and press firmly.

Leave the top open — that's where the letters go.

### 4. Add a Hanging Option (optional)

Punch two holes at the top of the full plate.

Tie a loop of string or ribbon so the mail holder can hang on a hook or doorknob.

### 5. Add the Label

Stick on or write a label such as:

"MAIL"

"POST"

"Deliver Here"

The child's name

### 6. Fill with Mail

Kids can now deliver:

Memory verse cards

Encouragement notes

"God's messages to me" cards

## Craft 2: Letterbox (Aussie style)

### You will need:

- Rectangular box (shoe box, food box or letterbox template)
- Scissors
- Tape or glue
- Markers, crayons, or paint
- Stickers or coloured paper (optional)
- Labels: "MAIL," "POST," or the child's name

What to do:

### **1. Prepare the Mailbox Shape**

### **2. Decorate the Mailbox**

- Airmail stripes
- Stamps
- Stickers
- Collage items
- “Special Delivery” written across the top

### **3. Add the Mail Slot**

- Cut a horizontal slit where letters will be posted.
- Make sure it’s wide enough for small cards or paper scraps.

## Craft 3: Postcard Praise Cards

### **What kids make:**

Blank postcards with a stamp corner and a picture on the front.

### **What they write:**

A short message of thanks to God, or a note of encouragement to someone in the Church.

## Craft 4: Journal (Made from Envelopes!)

### **You will need:**

- 6–10 envelopes (any size; all the same looks neat, mixed sizes look whimsical, you can also recycle used envelopes)
- Glue stick or PVA glue
- Scrap paper, old book pages, wrapping paper, stickers, washi tape
- Scissors
- Ribbon or string (optional for closure)
- Cardstock for the cover (optional but recommended)

### **What to do:**

#### **1. Choose Your Envelope Orientation**

Decide whether your envelopes will be:

- Side-opening pockets (flap on the side)
- Top-opening pockets (flap at the top)

#### **2. Edge-to-Edge Method** (sturdier)

Lay Envelope 1 and Envelope 2 side by side.

Run a strip of glue or washi tape along the touching edges.

Press firmly.

Repeat with all envelopes.  
This creates a flat accordion-style strip.

### **3. Fold into a Booklet**

Once your chain is complete:  
Fold the strip back and forth like an accordion  
OR  
Fold it in half like a traditional book  
Either way works — choose the shape you like.

### **4. Add a Cover** (Optional but Lovely)

Cut a piece of cardstock slightly larger than your envelope stack.  
Glue the first envelope to the inside front cover.  
Glue the last envelope to the inside back cover.  
Add a ribbon tie if you want a closure.

### **5. Decorate the Pages**

This is where the “junk” in junk journal shines.  
Ideas:

- Glue scraps of wrapping paper or tissue paper
- Add old postage stamps
- Stick in bits of lace, ribbon, or fabric
- Use washi tape to frame edges
- Add stickers, doodles, or stencilled shapes
- Glue in small envelopes or pockets inside the pockets

### **6. Fill the Envelope Pockets**

Each envelope becomes a storage pocket for:

- Memory verse cards
- Prayer prompts
- Mini devotionals
- Photos
- Drawings
- Gratitude notes
- “Mail from God” messages
- Tickets, tags, or found treasures