

Good and Bad Examples

Name: _____

Hezekiah, the king of the Southern Kingdom (Judah), turned to God in prayer when the Assyrian empire mocked God and threatened to invade Jerusalem. As a righteous king, Hezekiah provided a good example for his people to follow.

Reread the “Judah Resists” section on page 209 of the Student Text. Then answer the following question.

Explain in your own words how Hezekiah provided a good example for his people to follow.

Answers may include he showed his people to turn to God in prayer in times of trouble; he taught them to have faith in the only true living God; and he taught them to trust that God would always protect his people.

God looked with favor on Hezekiah’s example and protected Jerusalem from the Assyrian army.

While King Hezekiah showed a good example’s positive influence, his son, Manasseh, showed the negative influence a bad example could have. Manasseh became king after his father and led the people of Judah into deeper sin and evil.

Reread the first paragraph of “The Spread of Sin” section on page 210 of the Student Text. Then answer the following question.

In what ways did Manasseh provide a bad example for his people to follow?

Answers may include he encouraged others to break God’s commandments and commit idolatry; he built places in Judah to worship the bloodthirsty god Baal; and he sacrificed his own son to the evil god Baal.

Manasseh was not the only king who led his people into deeper wickedness by his bad example. Both kingdoms of Israel and Judah fell into great sin by following the bad examples of wicked kings.

As we have learned, in Baptism, we are each anointed with holy oil called sacred chrism. This anointing gives us a share in the anointing of Jesus, the Messiah, who served as Priest, Prophet, and King. The Holy Spirit empowers us by God’s grace to imitate Christ by living as priests, prophets, and kings in the world today.

One way we can live our kingly mission is by leading people to God through our good and holy example. Take a few minutes to think of people in your life who live out this baptismal mission by serving as good examples to others.

Write their names in the space provided.

Answers may vary.

In what ways can you imitate these people and live out your kingly mission by being a good example to others?

Answers may vary.

Now take a few minutes to think of someone in your life who needs a good example. Perhaps this person is not Catholic or even Christian. Maybe she does not have a community of friends or family to teach her God’s truth or inspire her to holiness.

How will you live out your kingly mission from Baptism by leading her through your example?

Answers may vary.
