‘The beginning of the end’
Kyle Idlemen
July 21/22 2012

Intro:
Think of a time when you stumbled upon something that changed your life. Maybe it
was something that made your life easier or even more pleasant. You might want to
choose something that’s funny or that’s serious. What do you have in mind?

Heart:
1) When we look at the Old Testament, we find only a handful of men and women who
were faithful. Which ones stand out to you, and why do you think they were so faithful to
the things God had entrusted them with?

1) As we read last week, we saw that there was something’s unique about Hezekiah
that God took notice of. We learned this weekend that, for one thing, Hezekiah was
committed to purity. Re-read some of the sections on Hezekiah, and look at the ways
Hezekiah was committed to purity. Discuss the situations that stick out to you.
2) When Hezekiah took over as king and summoned the priests and the Levites, he said
to them, “Purify yourself, then purify the temple.” Why would they need to purify
themselves before they purified the temple?

We may have a hard time sensing God’s blessing or even his hand in our lives. But I
think sometimes we forget Hezekiah’s words, “Purify yourselves and then you are going
to purify this place.” Before we ask or expect God’s blessing we need to purify
ourselves. That begins with repentance. We look around and recognize that in our lives
there are things, behaviors, unhealthy emotions, that are offensive to God. The
repentance leads to removal…purification isn’t just repenting of what is offensive—it’s
removing it.

Head:
1) How do we know what to remove? The second thing that we learned this weekend
was that Hezekiah was committed to prayer. Re-read some of the stories talking about
Hezekiah’s prayer life. What do you see in his prayer life that is missing in yours?

2) What does it mean when we say, “We are dependent on God”?

3) What areas in your life are you fighting to maintain control over? Finances,
temper, pride, judgment, emotional bondage from your past? Share openly and
honestly.

When we put these two aspects of Hezekiah’s life together what we see is: Purity is
dying to self and surrendering all to God—surrendering to God’s will. Prayer is asking
for God’s presence in all things. God wants to tell you and show you the things that are
blocking you from seeing the “blessings.”

Pray: Read John 15:1-17. Pray for the Gardner to prune the branches in your life that do
not have fruit. The heart must be purified before the mind can fully understand.