



UNIT 15 | SESSION 4 | NOVEMBER 9-10, 2019

2-3's Lesson

Habakkuk the Prophet

Bible Passage: Habakkuk

Story Point: Habakkuk learned to trust God.

Key Passage: "If my people ... turn from their evil ways, then I will ... forgive their sin, and heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

Christ Connection: Jesus will come back and make everything right.

KID CONNECT:
30 MINUTES

LARGE GROUP:
15 MINUTES

SMALL GROUP:
15 MINUTES

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

How much time do you spend waiting? Think about it. Waiting for a traffic light to turn green, waiting at the doctor's office, waiting at the drive-thru, waiting for a phone call, waiting for a birthday, waiting on someone else.

The fact is, we spend a lot of our time waiting. Why do we wait? We know something is coming. A major factor in waiting is faith— "the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen" (Heb. 11:1). This is precisely what the prophet Habakkuk addressed.

All around him, people were oppressed, and violence escalated. The Book of Habakkuk records the prophet's dialogue with the Lord. "How long, Lord, must I call for help?", Habakkuk asked. "Why do You tolerate wrongdoing?"

God answered. He was going to raise up the Babylonians, and they would hold captive the people of Judah. Habakkuk prayed again. God answered. The Babylonian captivity would not last forever. After some time, God was going to rescue His people and punish the Babylonians.

God's people waited to be delivered from captivity, and those who are in Christ are waiting for the fulfillment of Christ's return. Until then, we live by faith. (See Heb. 10:35-38.) We can trust that God is in control over the future, so "though the fig tree does not bud and there is no fruit on the vines ... yet I will celebrate in the LORD; I will rejoice in the God of my salvation!" (Hab. 3:17-18).

KID CONNECT

WELCOME TIME

(VIDEO: ARRIVAL MUSIC)

Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow the KidCity check-in procedures. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

HOLD A SMILE

(no supplies needed)

Ask preschoolers to show you their biggest smile. Make various silly faces at them and see how often you can make them smile.

SAY • God gave you a beautiful smile! We often smile when we are happy. In our Bible story today, a prophet named Habakkuk was sad because he saw a lot of bad things happening. But he decided to be happy no matter what because God is always good!

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

Show the countdown video to help preschoolers' transition to Large Group. Encourage preschoolers to look around as they move to Bible study and tell what they see happening.

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: WHEN I LOOK UP, VIDEO: I HAVE HOPE)

Sing "When I Look Up" and "I Have Hope".

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

(CG: GIANT TIMELINE)

(Bible, Bookmark)

Place a bookmark at Habakkuk in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Display the open Bible.

SAY • Lots of different people wrote the books that make up our Bible, but all the words came from God, so all of it is true. Today's Bible story is about God's messenger named Habakkuk.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues people through His Son, Jesus.

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

(CG: BIBLE STORY PICTURE, CG: STORY POINT)

(sad face, army picture, scroll, happy face)

Tell the Bible story using the script and props provided.

SAY • Habakkuk told people God's words. Bad things were happening, and Habakkuk was sad. (show sad face) He asked God, "Why are You not punishing the people who do wrong things?" God said, "I am sending an army to punish Judah." (show army picture) Habakkuk said, "Why will you send an army to destroy Judah?"

God told Habakkuk to write down His words so people would know His plan. (show scroll) Habakkuk said, "No matter what happens, I will be happy because of God. (show happy face) Even if none of the plants grow fruit, if no food grows in the fields, and even if I do not have any sheep or cows, I will worship God, who rescues me."

Habakkuk lived when bad things seemed to be happening everywhere. He talked to God about it, but God already knew what was happening. God planned to send Jesus. Bad things happen today, but we can trust that Jesus will come back one day and make everything right.

CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY • Jesus will come back and make everything right.

PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

(CG: KEY PASSAGE)

Place the key passage marker at 2 Chronicles 7:14. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage.

SAY • "If my people (display arms in front) ...turn from their evil ways (turn your body), then I will (point up) ... forgive their sin and heal their land (cross arms over chest)." 2 Chronicles 7:14
Our key passage reminds us that when we turn to God, He will forgive and heal us.

PRAY AND TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

SMALL GROUP

Session Title: Habakkuk the Prophet

Bible Passage: Habakkuk

Story Point: Habakkuk learned to trust God.

Christ Connection: Jesus will come back and make everything right.

MAKE ANIMAL NOISES

(no supplies needed)

Call out various animals for preschoolers to mimic. Preschoolers may also crawl and move like those animals. Retell the Bible story. Talk about Habakkuk's trust.

SAY • Habakkuk trusted God even if God chose to take away his animals. Like Habakkuk, we can trust God when bad things happen.

SING SONGS TO GOD

(several instruments per group)

Tip: Sing whatever songs are most familiar to your group.

Provide rhythm instruments for preschoolers to play as you sing songs about God's love and goodness, such as "God Is So Good," "God Will Take Care of You," or "Jesus Loves Me." Look up the songs online if you are unfamiliar with the words. Allow preschoolers to take turns playing the instruments.

Jesus loves me this I know.
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong.
They are weak, but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me for the Bible tells me so.

SAY • We can trust God when bad things happen. GOD PLANNED TO SEND JESUS. One day, Jesus will come back and make everything right.

CIRCLE TIME

(2-3 small Bibles per group, key passage card, Bible Story Picture Poster)

Provide Bibles for preschoolers. Say the Bible is God's words. Read the key passage card. Open your Bible to the Book of Habakkuk.

Show the Bible story picture as you tell the Bible story.

Say the story point and gospel gems.

GOSPEL GEMS

- Habakkuk asked God why bad things were happening.
- Habakkuk trusted God's plan for Judah.
- We can trust God when bad things happen.

Pray with your group. Pray for preschoolers by name if possible. Encourage them to talk to God in prayer throughout the week.

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(Big Picture Card - 1 per family)

At pickup or drop off, hand this week's Big Picture Card to each child's influencer. Encourage them to discuss the Big Picture Question & Answer with their preschooler this week.