



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

## 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Lesson

# Habakkuk, the Prophet

**Bible Passage:** Habakkuk

**Story Point:** Habakkuk learned to have faith and trust in God.

**Key Passage:** “If my people, who bear my name, humble themselves, pray and seek my face, and turn from their evil ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14

**Big Picture Question:** How did God plan to fix what sin broke? Before He created the world, God planned to send the Messiah to save sinners.

**KID CONNECT:  
10 MINUTES**

**LARGE GROUP:  
30 MINUTES**

**SMALL GROUP:  
20 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. Habakkuk was living in Judah shortly before it was taken into captivity. He found himself in a period of waiting, first for judgment and then for revival.

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. Judah deserved to be punished, but the Babylonians were even more wicked than Judah; how could God, in essence, bless them?

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 sovereign 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: INTRO MUSIC)

*Play* intro music and greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to think of a day when everything seemed to go wrong. Did they look forward to the day ending? How did they feel when they woke up the next day?

## LARGE GROUP

### COUNTDOWN

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

*Show* the countdown video as you transition to Large Group. Set it to end as the session begins.

### LARGE GROUP GAME

(SFX: GAME INTRO MUSIC, SFX: GAME MUSIC)

### FREE SHIPPING

(shipping box, candy)

Similar to Musical Chairs but with a twist. Choose 10 kids. Have them either stand or sit in a circle facing inwards. Give the shipping box to one kid to start with and then turn on the music. When the music is going the kids need to pass the box to the next person in the circle. At a random moment, stop the music and the kid who is left with the box in their hands is out. Play until one kid is left and then have them open the box to get their prize inside (candy bar/bag).

### WORSHIP

(VIDEO: ONCE AND FOR ALL, VIDEO: NOT AFRAID)

SAY • Let's worship God!

## INTRODUCE THE SESSION

(CG: THEME BACKGROUND)

(mailbox, letter, Bible)

**Leader enters and walks over to the mailbox.**

SAY • Heyo! Who loves getting mail? I know I do. It's like getting little gifts every day. Speaking of, let's see what we got today.

**Open mailbox and get out mail.** Junkmail, junkmail ... Oh wow! It's a letter from my friend, [*make up name*]. He/she moved all the way to California so now he/she is my pen pal. Yes, I know that most of you don't know what that means. But a pen pal is someone who you write letters back and forth with. He/she sends me one, then I send them one etc... It's actually a lot of fun and it's always exciting to get a new letter in the mail. I'll read this later.

You know, that reminds me of a story from the Bible. The Bible is like a letter from God to us. It tells us about Him and His love for us. It tells us the story of His plan to rescue us from sin.

## BIG PICTURE QUESTION

(CG: BIG PICTURE QUESTION)

SAY • That brings us to our big picture question. *How did God plan to fix what sin broke? Before He created the world, God planned to send the Messiah to save sinners.* Nothing catches God off guard. He knows all things before they happen and has perfectly planned for everything. Even though He knew people would choose sin, He created us anyway because He is loving and good. He even planned to rescue us from sin!

## GIANT TIMELINE

(CG: GIANT TIMELINE)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY • And boy oh boy did people need to be rescued! God sent prophets to warn Judah to obey God. The prophet Isaiah told about the Messiah, but the people still chose sin. Most of the kings were bad, but even the good ones weren't enough. Hezekiah and Josiah led the people back to God, but those reforms did not last. Jeremiah told God's people about a new and better covenant, but it had not come yet. God's people sinned and sinned, refusing to repent. That's where our story picks up today.

## WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: HABAKKUK, THE PROPHET, CG: BIBLE STORY PICTURE, CG: STORY POINT)

(Bible)

Show the Bible story video "Habakkuk, the Prophet".

SAY • The Book of Habakkuk isn't about a message God gave His people; it's about Habakkuk's prayer to God and how God answered Habakkuk.

Sometimes we think we are only supposed to talk to God about the good stuff. We think we should only tell God that we love Him and trust Him. God does want to hear the good stuff; He wants us to love Him and trust Him. But God also wants us to tell Him when we are frustrated and confused. God wants us to tell Him when we don't understand.

Habakkuk told God all that he was thinking and feeling. God didn't answer all of Habakkuk's questions; instead, He reminded Habakkuk that God's people must live by faith. Habakkuk learned to have faith and trust in God.

We may not understand why certain things happen. We might be confused and frustrated. But we can and should trust God because He does know exactly why everything happens the way it does. He is in control of all things, and He is good.

## CHRIST CONNECTION

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

SAY • Habakkuk lived at a time when evil seemed to be everywhere. By faith, he trusted God's promise that God would deliver His people. Injustice, violence, and evil surround us today, but we can live by faith and trust that Jesus will return to make all things right.

## KEY PASSAGE

(CG: KEY PASSAGE)

(Bible)

Show the key passage slide. Open Bible and lead the kids to read together 2 Chronicles 7:14.

SAY • God is faithful. He hears us when we repent and call out to Him to save us. Just as He promised to heal His people and fix their brokenness, He has promised to forgive us of sin and fix our brokenness too, when we trust in Jesus.

## PRAY AND DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS

## SMALL GROUP

**Session Title:** Habakkuk, the Prophet

**Bible Passage:** Habakkuk

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**Big Picture Question:** How did God plan to fix what sin broke? Before He created the world, God planned to send the Messiah to save sinners.

### KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

(Key passage poster – 1 per group, dry erase board or paper – 1 per group, dry erase marker – per group)

*Display* the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud 2 Chronicles 7:14 two times. Then remove the poster and write on a dry erase board or paper the first letter of each word in the key passage, leaving space between letters. Call on volunteers to supply the missing words and help them write the words in one at a time. When kids fill in the entire key passage, prompt them to say it again together.

**SAY** • Great job! If you haven’t memorized our key passage yet, keep working on it! Memorizing Scripture helps us remember what is true about God and about ourselves. Our key passage reminds us that God loves us too much to allow us to keep disobeying Him. His heart is for all people to stop disobeying, turn to Him, and receive forgiveness.

### TRIPPLE MOVES

(no supplies needed)

*Instruct* kids to stand up and move at least an arm’s length apart from one another. Teach kids three different movements for key words you will say:

*faith* (stretch your arms out to the side)

*joy* (jump up and down)

*patience* (touch your toes).

*Practice* each movement a few times. Explain that when you call out a word, kids should perform the corresponding movement. Call out “faith,” “joy,” and “patience” randomly. If a kid performs the wrong movement, he should sit down. The goal is to be the last player standing.

*Option:* Review the gospel with kids using the handout in your bin. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another volunteer if they have questions.

**SAY** • Today we heard how Habakkuk learned to have faith and trust in God. Because God is in control of all things, we can live with faith, joy, and patience even when we don’t understand

His ways. Bad things happen in our world today, but we can trust that one day, Jesus will return to make all things right.

## DISCUSSION

(Bible - 1 per group)

Choose a volunteer to read aloud Habakkuk 1:5. Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

Why do you think Habakkuk chose to praise God no matter what? *Guide kids to recognize that Habakkuk learned to trust God, who is in control of all things. Habakkuk had faith that God does all things for His glory and our good. We don't always understand God's ways, but we can trust Him to take care of us.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Phil. 4:11.)

Where do you turn for comfort? Why? *Invite kids to share where they turn when they face difficult circumstances. Remind kids that the Lord is with us and comforts us in our suffering. When we turn to Him, we can find peace and rest.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Matt. 11:28.)

How can we have hope when evil seems to be everywhere? *Assure kids that even though evil may sometimes seem to win in the world, God is really in control. Like Habakkuk, we can have faith and trust in God. Sooner or later, God will punish the wicked, but it will be in His own time and in His own way.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Prov. 20:22.)

## REFLECTION AND PRAYER

(Journal Page - 1 per kid, pencils)

Ask the kids the following questions:

What does this story teach me about God?

What does this story teach me about myself?

Who can I tell about this story?

Make time for prayer requests and pray for your group. If time allows, have kids complete the Journal Page provided with this session.

## CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(Activity Page - 1 per kid)

Send home the Activity Page and encourage kids to complete it with their family.