



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

4-5's Lesson

Habakkuk

Bible Passage: Habakkuk

Story Point: Habakkuk learned to trust in 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

Big Picture Question: How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus.

**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. Habakkuk was a contemporary of the prophet Jeremiah, 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 help the Babylonians win? 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. Challenge them to keep on smiling as long as they can no matter what happens. Make various faces at them and see who can hold their smile the longest. You may time this activity or challenge older preschoolers to choose a partner to play the game with.

SAY • Great job holding your 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 a prophet 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.

WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

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

Show the Bible story video.

SAY • Habakkuk lived when bad things seemed to be happening everywhere. He talked to God about it, but God already knew what was happening. God was doing something amazing. Habakkuk learned to trust in God to care for His people and rescue them. Bad things happen today, but we can trust that Jesus will come back one day and make everything right.

PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

(CG: KEY PASSAGE)

(Bible, Bookmark)

Place the key passage marker at 2 Chronicles 7:14. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Use motions for the preschoolers as you say the key passage several times.

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.

LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION

(CG: BIG PICTURE QUESTION)

SAY • Habakkuk lived when bad things seemed to be happening everywhere. He trusted God to take care of His people and rescue them. *How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus.* Bad things happen today, but we can trust that Jesus will come back one day and make everything right.

PRAY AND TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

SMALL GROUP

Session Title: Habakkuk the Prophet

Bible Passage: Habakkuk

Story Point: Habakkuk learned to trust in 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

PRAISE GOD IN PRAYER AND SONG

(no supplies needed)

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

Encourage children to pray, thanking God for His goodness. Then lead preschoolers to stand and march while in singing familiar songs such as “I’ve Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy (Down in My Heart),” “Jesus Loves Me,” and “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus.” Demonstrate gratitude in prayer and joy in worship.

SAY • Habakkuk lived when bad things seemed to be happening everywhere. Habakkuk learned to trust in God to take care of His people and rescue them. Habakkuk thanked and praised God no matter what. Bad things happen today, but we can trust that Jesus will come back one day and make everything right. We can thank and praise God no matter what, too!

TALK WITH FRIENDS

(1 bean bag or small ball per group)

Encourage preschoolers sit in a circle. Give one child the bean bag or ball and ask them to share one thing that happened this week. Give your group examples like (I saw my Grandma, I played with a friend, someone in my family got sick). After the child shares one thing, have them pass the bag/ball to the next child until everyone gets to share.

SAY • It is good to talk with our friends, but it is amazing that we can talk with God! Habakkuk told God about the bad things happening in Judah, and God heard him. God knew what was happening, and He told Habakkuk about His amazing plan. Habakkuk learned to trust in God. We can tell God about what is happening in our life too. God hears us and He cares for us.

KEY PASSAGE WITH MOTIONS

Say the key passage using motions. Repeat several times and encourage children for trying.

"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

REVIEW AND PRAYER

(Bible Story Picture Poster)

Ask children about some things they have to wait for. Habakkuk lived when bad things were happening everywhere. Habakkuk learned to trust in God to take care of His people. Bad things happen today, but we can trust that Jesus will come back and make everything right.

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

What did Habakkuk pray to God about? (*bad things happening*)

Did God know about the bad things happening? (*yes*)

Did God still love His people when bad things were happening? (*yes*)

God can hear us. What do you want to tell Him? (*allow for responses*)

How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus.

Ask your group for prayer requests and pray together. If you can, pray for each preschooler by name. Encourage them to talk to God in prayer throughout the week.

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(Preschool Activity Page, 1 per child and crayons)

Preschoolers may color the Story Point coloring page as parents arrive. Encourage them to do the activity page at home with their family this week.