



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

## 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</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 & GIANT TIMELINE

(CG: GIANT TIMELINE)

(Bible)

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

SAY • The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues people through His Son, Jesus. The prophet Habakkuk lived at the same time as the prophet Jeremiah. Today we will hear about the message found in the Book of Habakkuk.

## TELL THE BIBLE STORY

(CG: BIBLE STORY PICTURE, CG: STORY POINT, CG: QUESTION 1, CG: QUESTION 2)

(Bible)

Tell the Bible story using the script below.

SAY • Habakkuk (huh BAK kuk) the prophet prayed to God. “How long will I cry to You for help and You do not hear me?” Habakkuk had told God about the violence in Judah, but nothing seemed to change. “Why do You let bad things happen? People are fighting and stealing. The bad guys always win,” Habakkuk said.

God was listening. He knew what was happening. God answered, “Watch! I am doing something amazing, something you wouldn’t believe if I told you.” Then God told Habakkuk what was going to happen. God was raising up enemies—the mighty Babylonians. No one could stand in their way. Their army would be strong and fast, like hungry eagles that swoop from the sky to catch little mice in a field. The Babylonians were going to come and make God’s people prisoners!

Would this really happen? Habakkuk wanted the evil in Judah to stop, but the people of Babylon were evil too. “Why do it this way, Lord?” Habakkuk asked.

God answered, “I’m going to show you what will happen. Be patient and wait for it. If you are righteous, you will live by faith. It may seem like evil people are winning now, but they won’t win in the end.” God promised Habakkuk that the people’s captivity in Babylon wouldn’t last forever. God was going to bring His people back to their land. Habakkuk prayed. People had forgotten about God. They didn’t care about sin. They didn’t pray. Habakkuk wanted that to change!

Habakkuk praised God for His power. The Babylonians were going to come, and life for the people in Judah would be very hard for a while. But Habakkuk had faith, and he would wait for the day when God would rescue His people from the Babylonians.

Finally, Habakkuk said, “Even if the trees and vines do not produce fruit, even if nothing grows in the fields, and even if there are no sheep in the pens and no cattle in the barns, I will be glad because of the Lord. I will rejoice in God who saves.”

God told Jeremiah to write another scroll with the same words as the first. Jeremiah told the king, “God is going to punish you, your family, and your leaders for doing wrong things. God warned you that disaster will come to Judah but you did not listen.”

## QUESTION 1: What does this story teach us about God?

SAY • 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.

## QUESTION 2: Did God answer all of Habakkuk's questions? Why?

SAY • 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. *How did God plan to fix what sin broke? Before He created the world, God planned to send the Messiah to save sinners.*

## 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!

## 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 for 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

**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

## DISCUSSION

(Bible - 3-4 per group)

SAY • In the New Testament, Jesus told His followers that they would experience suffering in this world. Jesus said, “Be courageous! I have conquered the world.” We too can have faith and trust in God; He is good and in control.

- How can God be everywhere at the same time?
- How is God’s presence comforting to you?

Distribute Bibles. Guide kids to open their Bibles to the Book of Habakkuk. Choose a volunteer to read aloud God’s words in Habakkuk 1:5. Emphasize that Habakkuk prayed to God because he did not understand what was happening. God answered Habakkuk, and Habakkuk learned to have faith and trust in God.

Choose another volunteer to read aloud Habakkuk 1:5 again. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. 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 what is 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.)*

2. 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.)

3. Why should we obey God?

*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.)

## KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

**(Bibles, poster board or dry erase board - 1 per group, dry erase marker/marker - 1 per group)**

*Instruct* kids to open their Bibles to 2 Chronicles 7:14. Lead the kids to read the key passage together two times. Instruct kids to close their Bibles. Write on a dry erase board the first letter of each word in the key passage, leaving space between letters.

Call on volunteers to supply the missing words and write them in one at a time. When kids fill in the entire key passage, prompt them to say it again together.

## QUESTIONS FROM YOU

**(large piece of paper - 1 per group, 2-3 sticky notes - per kid, markers - per group)**

Use a marker to write *Questions from You* on a large sheet of paper. Consider drawing question marks all over the paper. Then display the paper.

*Give* each kid one or two sticky notes and a marker. Ask kids if they ever have questions about things they do not understand. Remind them that God is in control of all things and invite them to write down one or two questions they would ask God. Guide kids to put their sticky note questions on the paper. Read some of the questions aloud to get kids thinking.

SAY • How does asking questions lead to better understanding?

## 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 to complete the Journal Page provided with this session.

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY: TRIPLE 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.

Review that 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. Injustice, violence, and wickedness surround us today, but we can trust that one day, Jesus will return to make all things right

## **CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS**

**(Activity Page - 1 per kid)**

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