



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

K-1 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 talk about a time life seemed confusing. Be ready with examples from your life if the kids struggle to think of examples.

SAY • God always does what is best. All His plans are for His glory and our good. But that doesn't mean we will always understand His plans. Sometimes God does things in ways that don't make sense to us. Is it easy or difficult to trust God in those situations?

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.* Remember that Messiah means special king. 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 that did not last long. Jeremiah told God's people about a new and better promise, but it had not come yet. God's people disobeyed and disobeyed, refusing to turn back to God. 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 • Can you imagine Habakkuk’s confusion and frustration? He knew God and loved God, but no one around him seemed to understand that God is good and His ways are best.

Sometimes I think about it in this way: Now don’t do this in real life, but pretend you have a bowl of marbles that look a little bit like candy. You know they aren’t candy. You know that eating them will hurt you because they aren’t food. But everyone you know keeps going to the bowl and taking huge mouthfuls of the marbles and swallowing them. They don’t seem to notice or care; they just keep eating more!

Sin is like that in some ways. People who are choosing to ignore God usually don’t even know that their sinful choices are hurting them. And sometimes they do know but do not care.

The idea that God was going to allow His people to be captured by a group of people even more evil than they were probably seemed a little scary, but Habakkuk learned to have faith and trust in God. God reminded Habakkuk that He would be faithful to His people; He would punish their disobedience, but their punishment would not last forever.

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. Bad things happen in our lives today, but we can live by faith and trust that Jesus will return to make all things right.

It is normal to see evil in the world and feel sad. We were created to live in a perfect world with no sin, but we actually live in a world that is broken by our sin, and we are broken by sin as well. When we trust in Jesus, He forgives our sin and begins to heal the damage sin causes. Someday, Jesus will come back to earth and fix all that sin has broken.

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 ask for forgiveness 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

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KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

(Key passage poster – 1 per group)

Allow volunteers to say the key passage from memory. Praise each kid’s efforts and help kids if they get stuck. Then lead the kids in saying the key passage in various voices using the suggested motions and shortened verse below:

[If] my people [*Hold arms as though placing them around friends’ shoulders.*]
pray and seek my face [*Fold hands as in prayer.*]
and turn from their evil ways [*Face left, then turn to face right.*]
then I will hear from heaven [*Cup one hand over your ear.*]
forgive their sin and heal their land. [*Place hands on heart, move hands downward to gesture to the earth.*] 2 Chronicles 7:14

SAY • Great job with that key passage! Keep working on it over the next few weeks. This key passage helps us understand how God feels about sinners. He loves everyone and wants to heal everyone who repents and turns to Jesus. That’s why He sent Jesus!

TRUST GOD CRAFT

(“Trust God” printable – 1 per kid, 5-6 pieces of yarn per kid, bottled glue per group)

Make a simple craft to help the kids understand they can trust God no matter what. Distribute one sheet of paper to each kid. Tell the kids to draw a line down the middle of the paper. Give them each 3 short strands of yarn (about 5-6 inches each) and have the children tangle them up into a blob, then glue the blob onto the right side of the paper.

SAY • That blob represents the evil and sin that is in our world. Just like when Habakkuk lived. The people of Judah were not living in a way they should and as a result, God allowed the Babylonians to capture them. The Babylonians were even more evil. It is okay to see sin and evil and feel a sadness. We live in a world that is broken by our sin, and we are broken by our sin too. BUT...

Have the kids use their last two pieces of yarn to make a cross and glue that on the left side of their paper.

SAY • BUT... Habakkuk learned to have faith and trust in God. Even though things looked like they were only getting worse, God is in charge of all things. God can use our hard times to do amazingly good things. God has a plan. When we trust in Jesus, He forgives our sins and begins to heal the damage sin causes.

DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

Why do you think God punished His people's sin? *Guide kids to see that God's justice is a part of His love. God being just means that He is always fair. Because God loves us, He punishes sin to keep sin from growing and hurting more people. Help kids see that if God simply allowed sin to grow and thrive, He would be going against His very character as a loving God.*

When you think about God's plan to punish Jesus for our sin, how do you feel? *Guide kids to discuss their thoughts. Ask them questions about if they feel more grateful toward God, more surprised by His love, or more humbled by Jesus' sacrifice.*

How can we trust God even when the world seems scary or evil? *Guide kids to talk about our hope in Jesus. Remind kids that we know Jesus will come back and fix everything broken in the world. We know that evil will not win in the end. If we trust in Jesus, we will live in His perfect kingdom when He returns.*

SAY • Habakkuk learned to have faith and trust in God. Habakkuk did not fully understand God's plan to use an evil nation to punish His people, but he realized that God would not let Babylon go unpunished either. Our hope comes from knowing that Jesus will return and destroy evil forever.

REFLECTION AND PRAYER

(Bible Story Coloring Page - 1 per kid, crayons)

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 Bible story coloring 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.