

Unit 15 • Session 4

Habakkuk the Prophet

Bible Passage: Habakkuk

Story Point: Habakkuk learned to trust in God.

Key Passage: 2 Chronicles 7:14

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

The BIBLE Story

Habakkuk (huh BAK kuk) the prophet prayed to God. “How long do I have to wait, God?” he asked. “When I cry to You for help, do You hear me?” Bad things had been happening in Judah. Habakkuk told God about it, but people were still mean. Habakkuk asked, “Why do You let bad things happen?”

God heard Habakkuk. He knew what was happening. God said, “Look around. I am doing something amazing. If I told you what I am doing, you wouldn’t believe Me.”

God told Habakkuk that Judah’s enemies—the mighty Babylonians—were coming. They were strong and fast. The Babylonians would take God’s people to Babylon and put them in prison. God told Habakkuk, “It may seem like bad people are always winning now. But one day, they won’t win anymore.”

God promised that one day, He would punish the Babylonians for doing wrong things. The Babylonians would take God’s people away from their homes, but not forever. One day, God would bring His people back to their land.

Habakkuk asked God to change people’s hearts. Habakkuk wanted people to remember God. He wanted them to be sorry for doing the wrong things. He wanted them to love God.

“You have done so many amazing things,” Habakkuk prayed. “Please do more amazing things so people will know You.”

Habakkuk thanked God for being powerful. He trusted God to take care of His people. The people in Judah would be prisoners for a while, but not forever. One day God would rescue His people and bring them home.

Habakkuk said, “No matter what happens, I will be happy because of God. Even if none of the plants grow fruit, if no food grows in the fields, and even if I don’t have any sheep or cows, I will be glad because God rescues His people.”

Christ Connection: Habakkuk lived when bad things seemed to be happening everywhere. He trusted God to take care of His people and rescue them. Bad things happen today, but we can trust that Jesus will come back one day and make everything right.

Learn the 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.

Practice the key passage

Place a bookmark at 2 Chronicles 7:14. Invite your child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. **“If my people... (arms held out in front of you, palms up) turn from their wicked ways, (push hands away from body like trying to push something away) then I will... forgive their sin (hands placed over heart) and heal their land. (Spread hands outward, palms down) 2 Chronicles 7:14”** (open hands like a book).

Practice saying the verse several times.

Say • Habakkuk wanted the people to do what our key passage says. He wanted them to be sorry for doing wrong things and receive God’s forgiveness.

Coloring page

What you need: coloring sheet, 1 per child, markers or crayons

Give your child the coloring/activity page. Invite your child to color the one side. On the other side, guide him/her to circle the 10 things in the picture that do not belong.

Say • There were a lot of silly things happening in that picture. In today’s Bible story, there were not a lot of *silly* things happening. There were a lot of *bad* things happening. Habakkuk the prophet told God about it, but bad things kept happening. Habakkuk asked, “Why do You let bad things happen?” Do you remember how God answered Habakkuk?

Praise God in prayer and song

Tip: Sing whatever songs are most familiar to you.

Encourage child to pray, thanking God for His goodness. Then lead your child 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!

Make happy face art

What you need: "happy and sad face" printable, scissors (adult use), large craft stick or pencil, markers or crayons, and tape or glue stick

Print and cut out the happy and sad faces. Encourage your child to complete the faces by adding eyes, a nose, and hair on each. Tape or glue the faces to the craft stick or pencil so the faces are positioned back to back. Show your child how the stick can be turned so the happy face shows and then turned around so the sad face shows. Briefly retell the story, asking your child to hold up the appropriate face depending on what is happening as the story is told.

Say • Things happen that make us sad, but no matter what happens we have a reason to be happy—Jesus! Bad things had been happening in Judah. Habakkuk talked to God about what was happening. God told Habakkuk that good things were coming. **Habakkuk learned to trust in God.** He trusted God would rescue His people. Bad things happen today, but we can trust that Jesus will come back one day and make everything right. *How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus.*

Story review

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.

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*)
- Was God still working out His good plan for the people? (*yes*)
- Did Habakkuk say he would only trust God if good things happened. (*No, Habakkuk learned to trust in God no matter what happened.*)
- *How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus.*