



Use Week of:

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.

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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, 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).

The BIBLE Story

Habakkuk the Prophet

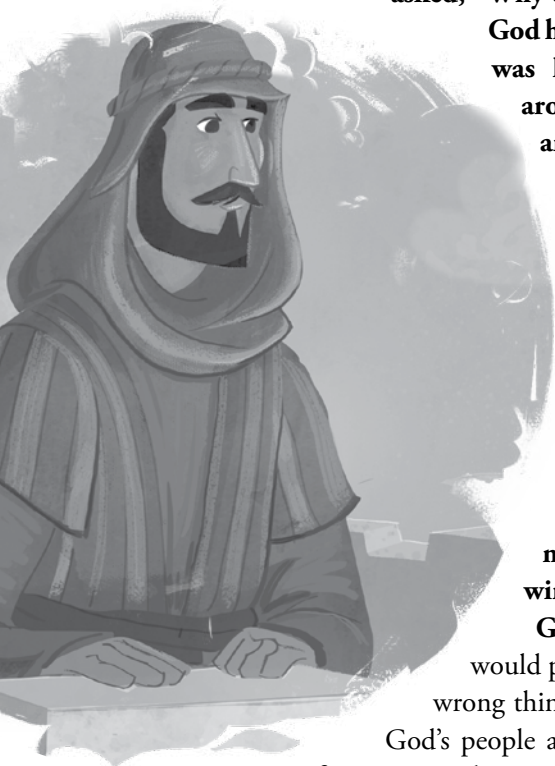
Habakkuk

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.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use dramatic dialogue:** Speak Habakkuk's words as you look upward. Pause slightly between his dialogue and the rest of the narrative.
- **Act it out:** Enlist three adult leaders to be Habakkuk, God, and the narrator. Let the person speaking God's words stand away from the focal area. Consider prerecording when God speaks and playing it at the appropriate moments in the Bible story.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: 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.

Welcome time

- "Come, Thou Fount" song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play a theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church's security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- "What's Wrong Here?" activity page, 1 per child
- crayons or markers

Guide preschoolers 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?" Listen to the Bible story to hear how God answered Habakkuk.

LOW PREP

- timer (optional)

Hold a smile

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!

Make cookie bites

Gather the ingredients in the margin before the session. Adjust the recipe based on the size of your class. This recipe makes approximately 18 1-inch bites.

Post an allergy alert. Wash hands. Let preschoolers help measure ingredients into a bowl and stir. Scoop out dough, roll into balls, and place on a sheet pan. Refrigerate until snack time.

SAY • I can hardly wait to eat these cookie bites! Waiting for good things can be really hard. But if we let these cookie bites chill, they will taste even better! Habakkuk the prophet thought it was really hard to wait for good things. He asked God how long he had to wait. Listen to our Bible story today to find out how God answered!

- Allergy Alert
- old-fashioned rolled oats, 1 cup
- chocolate chips, ½ cup
- raisins, ½ cup
- nut butter, ½ cup
- honey, ½ cup
- bowl
- spoons
- measuring cups
- sheet pan

Tip: For nut allergies, use sunflower seed butter instead of nut butter.

Transition to teach the story

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, turn the lights off and on, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Encourage preschoolers to look around as they move to Bible study and tell what they see happening.

- countdown video (optional)

TEACH the Story



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Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- bookmark
- Giant Timeline

Place a bookmark at Habakkuk in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently 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 sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Story Point Poster
- "Habakkuk the Prophet" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

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

Place the key passage marker at 2 Chronicles 7:14. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Form two groups. Guide one group to say the first phrase of the key passage, then guide the other group to say the second phrase. Continue alternating phrases between groups until the children have recited the whole passage.

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.

Sing the key passage song, "If My People," and the theme song, "Come, Thou Fount."

- Bible
- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- "If My People" song
- "Come, Thou Fount" song

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.

- Big Picture Question Poster



Missions moment

SAY • What do you need to play football? [*Allow responses. Then hold up a Bible.*] Christian coaches in Baltimore also need this. The Bible is most important because the coaches use this to tell the players about Jesus. Let's meet another coach, Coach Sean, who leads the sports ministry in Baltimore. The players are learning to trust in God.

Show the "10:12 Sports (Part 2)" missions video.

- Bible
- "10:12 Sports (Part 2)" missions video.

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE the Story



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LOW PREP

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

Praise God in prayer and song

Encourage children to pray, thanking God for His goodness. Then lead preschoolers 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 a scratch-reveal picture

Demonstrate how to make a scratch-reveal picture. Color an unlined index card with markers, covering all of the surface. Then completely color over the marker thickly with black crayon. Use craft sticks to scratch the crayon away in desired pattern, revealing the colors underneath. Guide preschoolers to make their own scratch-reveal cards and etch drawings into them.

SAY • Was it hard to understand why I covered up all my pretty colors with black crayon? It may have seemed

- unlined index cards
- markers
- black crayons
- craft sticks

like a bad idea at the time, but then it became this beautiful picture! Habakkuk didn't understand why God let bad things happen either. But God was doing something amazing. **Habakkuk learned to trust in 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. Somehow we will see beauty in things we once thought were ugly!

Plant spring-blooming bulbs

Gather needed supplies. Choose a sunny flower bed outside or fill a large container with potting soil. Roll up sleeves and put on smocks. Allow preschoolers to take turns using trowels to dig holes two to three times deeper than the height of your bulbs and a few inches apart. Help dig as needed. Show children how to place the bulbs in the holes, pointed end up. Let preschoolers cover the bulbs with potting soil and then a few inches of mulch. Water well. Display a picture of the flower that will grow from your bulbs for preschoolers. Consult your local garden center for other bulb-care tips.

SAY • Now we have to wait until spring for our flowers to bloom. That may seem like a long time to wait, but these flowers actually need to be in the cold ground for a while so they can grow. When you get tired of the cold weather this winter, just remember our flowers and our Bible story today! Habakkuk wondered why he had to wait so long for help. But God was doing something amazing, even though it seemed like bad things were happening everywhere.

- large container (optional)
- potting soil
- trowels
- quality spring-blooming flower bulbs
- picture of the type of flower you plant (from bulb packaging)
- mulch
- water
- watering cans
- smocks
- gardening gloves (optional)

Tip: If you are teaching this session during the summer or spring, plant a seed or seedling that will bloom next season instead of bulbs.

Habakkuk learned to trust in God. When we look at our flowers, we can remember that Jesus will come back one day and make everything right

Talk with friends

- toy telephones
- cardboard tubes or PVC pipes

Encourage preschoolers to talk to one another using toy telephones and cardboard tubes or PVC pipes.

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. As we learn His truth in the Bible, we will learn to trust that Jesus will come back one day and make everything right.



Decide what is missing

- Bible
- football equipment

Tip: Print images of football equipment and a Bible from the Internet if actual equipment is unavailable.

Show children several pieces of football equipment such as a football, helmet, cleats, and so forth. Then show preschoolers a Bible. Line up the items on a table. Ask preschoolers to turn around. Take away something from the table. Tell preschoolers to turn around and take turns guessing what is missing. Repeat as time allows.

SAY • For Christian coaches in Baltimore, the Bible is an important part of football. They use the Bible to teach the team to trust in God. In today's Bible story, **Habakkuk learned to trust in God.** Let's pray that the teenagers in Baltimore will learn to trust in God too.

Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray, thanking God for the snack.

Serve the cookie bites made earlier for snack. Talk about how the children had to wait and trust you for their snack. 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.

1. What did Habakkuk pray to God about? (*bad things happening*)
2. Did God know about the bad things happening? (*yes*)
3. Was God still working out His good plan for the people? (*yes*)
4. Did Habakkuk say he would only trust God if good things happened. (*No, **Habakkuk learned to trust in God** no matter what happened.*)
5. ***How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus.***

Transition

When preschoolers finish their snack, they may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or theme song.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert
- paper cups and napkins
- snack food
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- "If My People" song
- "Come, Thou Fount" song
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers