



God Answers Habakkuk

Lesson Aim: To show God wants us to trust Him to punish evil and keep all His promises.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God Who Is Faithful

THE WORD

Bible Story: Habakkuk 1:2; 2:2-4, 20; 3:17-18

What He has done: God answered Habakkuk's questions.

Key Verse: Habakkuk 2:4

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Hebrews 11:1

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord." Philippians 2:8b-11a

Unit 8: The Prophets and God's Faithfulness			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
38	The Prophet Isaiah, Isaiah 53:6; 45:22; 9:2, 6-7	God gave Isaiah the message of hope about the coming Savior.	To know we all need the Savior whom God gave us in Jesus.
39	Micah and God's Courtroom, Micah 6:1-2, 8; 7:9, 13, 19	God sent Micah to the people in Judea with a message of judgment and hope.	To know the three choices God expects us to make.
40	The Prophet Zephaniah, Zephaniah 1:12; 2:3a; 3:17	God sent Zephaniah to warn the people about complacency and encourage those who seek Him.	To find security and comfort in the knowledge of God's love for those who seek Him.
41	Jeremiah and the Linen Belt, Jeremiah 1:4-9; 13:3-11; 29:11-13	God sent Jeremiah to tell of His plans for those who do and do not seek Him.	To know God wants us to seek Him and be close to Him.
42	God Answers Habakkuk, Habakkuk 1:2; 2:2-4, 20; 3:17-18	God answered Habakkuk's questions.	To show God wants us to trust Him to punish evil and keep all His promises.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 40:1-17. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for Your faithfulness. Help us live by faith and obey You. Help us teach the children to rejoice in Your presence and speak Your Word even during difficult times. Amen."

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THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Running Heralds Relay	Paper, 1-inch lengths of ribbon
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song: "At the Name of Jesus" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Do Justly" "To Him Who Sits on the Throne" "Search Me, O God" "You Will Seek Me" "The Lord Is My Shepherd" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Trust and Obey" "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Worship Jamz Series Shout Praises Kids: Hymns
		Worship Scripture Reading: Revelation 21:3-4	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 42 The Love Sub script or storybook
		Read the Word: Habakkuk 1:2; 2:2-4, 20; 3:17-18	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster
		Christ Connection: Hebrews 11:1	
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
GOT TIME?	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treats—Oracle Scroll (Scroll with 2 headings: My Questions/God's Answers), Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "At the Name of Jesus," CD player
	Up to 10	Snack: Where Are the Grapes?	Grapes
	Up to 10	Game: Drop the Oracle	Scroll (rolled paper secured with ribbon) as oracle scroll
	Up to 15	Craft: Rejoice Kazoos	Cardboard tube, wax paper, rubber bands, scissors, pencils, crayons or markers
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Passing the Light	Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse poster, extra large paper, tape or tacks, marker, flashlight
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Kneel & Say	Kneeling pad (small cushion or pillow), Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "At the Name of Jesus," CD player
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Date with story title or name printed on card

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started **THE WELCOME**

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

Meet & Greet Question: What is the best message you have ever received?

GAME: RUNNING HERALDS RELAY

Purpose: Children will run a race to understand Habakkuk's method of prophecy delivery through oracles and heralds.

Supplies: Paper and 1-inch lengths of ribbon

Prepare: Make an oracle scroll for each team by rolling a piece of a paper into a scroll and securing it with ribbon. If you are not playing in a room with four distinct corners, use floor tape, chalk, or cones to mark the game corners.

Options: Name each corner after a city from Bible times or a nearby modern day city. By touching the corner with the oracle scroll, the heralds are delivering the message to that city.

Today, we will discover the message God sent through the prophet Habakkuk. Habakkuk was not like the other prophets who spoke their messages out loud. Instead, he asked God questions and wrote down His answers. A message from God containing answers or advice was called an oracle. God told Habakkuk to give the written oracle to a messenger called a herald. The herald ran with the message and delivered it to the people. In this game, we will be the heralds. Let's see which team of heralds can deliver the oracle scroll first.

Directions:

1. Form two teams of equal number.
2. Assign teams to opposite corners for their home bases. Have them stand in a line along the wall so they are out of the way of the running heralds.
3. Show the teams which direction the heralds are to run and the four corners they must touch.
4. Give an oracle scroll to the first herald on each team.
5. On your signal, the first heralds walk quickly or run to each corner in order, touching the oracle scroll to each corner. If a herald misses a corner, he or she must go back and touch it before proceeding.
6. Upon returning to their teams, heralds hand off the oracle scroll to the next herald in line who repeats step 5-6.
7. The goal is to be the first team to have all its heralds run the course.

Limited Space? Instead of having heralds run, have them take baby steps or hop. Another option would be to have teams sit in a circle and race to pass the oracle scroll around their circle. Play again but challenge heralds to only use their elbows to pass the oracle scroll around the circle.



The God who is faithful **THE WORSHIP**

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

Today, we worship the God who is faithful. That means He keeps all of His promises. Remembering that truth during hard times helps us trust God and wait for Him to make things right. Habakkuk understood that trusting God meant to trust in His wisdom and goodness, even when things seemed very unfair and evil acts were not being punished. When we trust God that much, then we can praise Him even in the hardest of times.



Let's show God our trust as we obey Him by giving our offering to the church. Sing: "Trust and Obey" as offering is collected.

In the Bible, we find that God has promised to one day punish all evil and make everything good and perfect. When that happens, everyone in heaven, on earth, and under the earth will bow and confess that Jesus is the Lord of all. Sing the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "At the Name of Jesus."



The Bible describes what heaven and earth will be like after Jesus comes to make everything right. Read Revelation 21:3-4.



Perform The Love Sub script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 8, Lesson 42.



You may choose to sing songs that focus on trusting in God's faithfulness.



God answers Habakkuk's questions **THE WORD**

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned God chose Jeremiah to tell the people to seek Him with all their hearts. Today, we will learn about Habakkuk who was a prophet to Jerusalem and Judah at the same time as Jeremiah and Zephaniah. If a map is available, point to Jerusalem, Israel.

If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Habakkuk (Circa 603 B.C.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson. **Habakkuk didn't speak God's message as the other prophets did. He asked God questions. God told him to write His answer down and send it to God's people as a written oracle. An oracle is a message from God sent as an answer to a respectful complaint or question. Habakkuk wanted to know why God did not stop evil and why He let evil people succeed.**



If you brought your Bible, open it now and share it with others. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Habakkuk 1:2; 2:2-4, 20; 3:17-18.

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

Let's read Habakkuk's first question for God. Read Habakkuk 1:2.

Habakkuk asked why God wasn't punishing His people for their wrongdoing. God answered that He was going to have the Babylonians capture them as their punishment. Then, Habakkuk asked why a fair God would punish His people with such a wicked enemy whose sins were far worse. God's answer includes a promise that He would one day punish the Babylonians and a choice to live by faith. Read Habakkuk 2:2-4.

God's answer ends with a warning. Read Habakkuk 2:20.

After God answers, Habakkuk makes an important choice to rejoice in the Lord even in hard times. To rejoice in the Lord means to find joy in belonging to an awesome God. Read Habakkuk 3:17-18.



Living by faith THE WAY

In his first question, Habakkuk asked God how long it would take for Him to answer his prayer to punish the wrongdoers. Have you ever waited a long time for God to answer your prayer? (Children respond.) God answered that He was doing something about the wrongdoers. For their punishment, He was making plans for the evil Babylonians to conquer them. God does not allow wrongdoing (sin) to go unpunished forever. That is why Jesus came to save us. On the cross, He took the punishment for our wrongdoing. What has God promised to do about the sins of all who believe in His Son Jesus? (Forgive them.)

Then, Habakkuk asked God why He would allow the unfairness of having His people punished by a people who were far more evil and wicked. Have you ever seen something happen that seemed very unfair? (Children respond.) How do you feel when someone does wrong and is not punished for it? (Children respond.) In God's answer, what did He tell Habakkuk to do? (Wait.) God said that even though it seemed to be taking too long, one day He would give the wicked Babylonians their punishment.

It's hard to trust God's plan when we do not understand it or when it seems unfair. God gives a choice to the righteous, those who do right in God's eyes. When we belong to Jesus, God sees us as righteous. The choice of the righteous is to live by faith.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us CHRIST CONNECTION

Have you ever wondered what the word "faith" really means? (Children respond.) 600 years after God told Habakkuk, "The righteous will live by faith," the word faith was explained in the letter to the Hebrews. Let's check it out!



Everyone, place your Bible on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Hebrews 11:1. Let's find this scripture. Read Hebrews 11:1.

To live by faith is to trust God will keep His promises. Faith is being certain of what we do not see. Our eyes cannot actually see God, so we cannot see He is with us, caring for us, protecting and guiding us. Our eyes cannot see His love for us. **What has happened in your life to help you be certain God is doing these things?** Lead a discussion about children's examples of God's presence, love, comfort, healing, etc.

Does faith in the invisible things of God help you trust Him enough to praise Him in hard times even when evil is not punished and when bad things happen to good people? (Children respond.) **That's the choice Habakkuk made—he called it rejoicing in the Lord. Let's ask God to help us to make that choice, too!** Lead a prayer for God to fill us with joy by reminding us that we belong to an awesome God.

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ___, ___, ___. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is an oracle scroll. Keep it in a special place. When you have a question or a respectful complaint for God as Habakkuk did, write it on your oracle scroll. Then, wait and see if God shows you the answers and write His answer on the scroll.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 42 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of the herald running with the oracle scroll and delivering it to God's people.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song, "At the Name of Jesus," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: WHERE ARE THE GRAPES?

Purpose: Children eat a snack as they discuss how they can rejoice in the Lord, even when life is hard.

Supplies: Grapes

What was wrong with the fig tree and the grape vines in Judah? (They were not growing fruit.) **Habakkuk's life must have been very hard, since there was not enough food to eat. What did Habakkuk choose to do in these hard times?** (He rejoiced in the Lord.) **To rejoice in the Lord is to find joy in belonging to an awesome God even when life is hard. As we eat these grapes, let's talk about reasons to rejoice in the Lord.**

Directions:

1. Distribute the snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: "**What is your favorite food?**"

GAME: DROP THE ORACLE

Purpose: Children will practice choosing to rejoice even while experiencing difficult life circumstances.

Supplies: Scroll (rolled paper secured with ribbon) as oracle scroll

Optional: Make the "Rejoice Kazoos" craft first. After each child answers the question, have all the children rejoice in the Lord by playing their instruments.

Habakkuk was going through a hard time in his life. People were ignoring God and worshipping idols. The crops were not growing, so there was not enough food. Life did not seem fair! God told Habakkuk He would make everything right at the right time. What did Habakkuk choose to do? (Rejoice in the Lord.) What does it mean to rejoice in the Lord? (To find joy in belonging to an awesome God even when life is hard.) During hard times, what good things can you focus on to help you rejoice in the Lord anyway? (Children respond.)

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle. Choose one child to be the herald. Give him or her the oracle scroll.
2. The herald walks around the circle.
3. He or she drops the oracle scroll behind another child and asks that child, "**Will you rejoice?**"
4. The child answers, "**I will rejoice even though _____,**" filling in the blank with a struggle he or she is currently experiencing. Examples: "I will rejoice even though my parent is sick." "I will rejoice even though my best friend moved away."
5. The herald takes that child's place in the circle and the child becomes the new herald. Continue playing until each child has a turn.

Remember, even when you are having a hard time, you can rejoice in the Lord. He promises to make everything right at the right time!

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: REJOICE KAZOOS

Purpose: Children will make kazoos to use for rejoicing in the Lord.

Supplies: Cardboard tube, wax paper, rubber bands, scissors, pencils, crayons or markers

Prepare: For each child, cut out a 5-inch square of wax paper. Write "**Rejoice in the Lord**" where children can see to copy it.

Teacher Tips: For the cardboard tube, cut a paper towel or wrapping paper roll into sections to make two or more kazoos. Send a request to parents a few weeks in advance requesting they collect and donate the tubes. Another option is to roll very stiff paper into tubes and secure with heavy tape. Tissue paper or similar thin paper, can be used instead of wax paper.

Options: Glue pieces of colored tissue paper, stickers, plastic jewels, or streamers to the outside of the kazoo to decorate.

Habakkuk felt like life was unfair. The people who did evil things were living successful, happy lives. He wondered why God was not punishing the evil. Even so, Habakkuk trusted God to make everything right and fair. What did God promise to do about the evil? (Punish the evil at the right time.) Sometimes we have to wait for God to answer, but we know He will! While we wait, we can choose to rejoice in the Lord, just like Habakkuk did. Do you remember what it means to rejoice in the Lord? (To find joy in belonging to an awesome God even when life is hard.) Let's make instruments we can use to rejoice in the Lord!

Directions:

1. Copy "Rejoice in the Lord" onto your cardboard tube.
2. Decorate the tube with crayons or markers.
3. Use a rubber band to secure the wax paper over one end of the tube.
4. Hum your favorite worship song into the open end. Play your kazoo to rejoice in the Lord!

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord." Philippians 2:8b-11a

GAME: PASSING THE LIGHT

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse poster, extra large paper, tape or tacks, marker, flashlight

Prepare: Write "Jesus" in large letters and hang it as high as possible in your classroom.

Seat children in a circle. Read the Bible Memory Verse. **What did Jesus do when He humbled Himself?** (He obeyed God and died on the cross for us.) **God exalted Jesus. That means He gave Him the highest praise. He gave Him the highest place of honor—a seat on the heavenly throne.** **What should we do to honor our Lord Jesus?** (Bow to Him, say aloud that He is Lord, and praise His name.) **One way to honor His name is to remember His Word, the Bible. In this game, when the light is passed to you, it is your turn to shine the light on Jesus' name and say the next phrase of the Bible Memory Verse.**

Directions:

1. If possible, dim or turn off the lights. Shine the flashlight on the Bible Memory Verse poster. Lead the children in reciting the scripture together.
2. Give the flashlight to one of the children.
3. That child shines the flashlight on Jesus' name and says the first few words of the Bible Memory Verse. (Children may shine the flashlight on the Bible Memory Verse poster and read the phrase from there.) The child quickly passes the flashlight to the child on his or her right.
4. Repeat step 3 until each child has a turn holding the flashlight and reciting the next few words. You may need to repeat the passage so everyone may have a turn.

GAME: KNEEL & SAY

Purpose: Children memorize the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Kneeling pad (small cushion or pillow), Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "At the Name of Jesus," CD player

In Isaiah 45:23, God promised that every knee would bow to Him. Then, over 700 years later, Paul wrote more about that promise in our new Bible Memory Verse. Because God is faithful to keep all His promises, we can trust that one day everyone will worship Jesus by bowing down on their knees. In this game, when the music stops, the person with the kneeling pad is to kneel on it and say the next few words of the Bible Memory Verse.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. Lead the children in reciting the scripture together.
3. Play and sing the Bible Memory Verse Song as children pass the kneeling pad around the circle.
4. Stop the music. The child holding the kneeling pad is to kneel on the pad and say the next few words of the verse. If the child does not know the verse, encourage others to help.
5. Start the music and play again. Play several rounds.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Prophets & Promises Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Elijah through Malachi. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and He has done.

Zephaniah (Circa 630 B.C.) Zephaniah warned the people of Jerusalem that God would punish them for being complacent. They did not care about God nor did they think He would do anything about their sins. The choice God gave them was to seek Him. Zephaniah gave an amazing set of five promises from God. The promises show He is not angry with those who seek Him. He takes great delight in them!

Jeremiah (Circa 626 B.C.) Before Jeremiah was born, God had chosen him to be His prophet to the nations. He told Jeremiah exactly how to use items such as a linen belt and a clay jar to explain God's plans for those who seek Him and for those who do not. Jeremiah's main message was God has a plan for all who seek Him. What did God promise would happen if you seek Him with all your heart? (You will find Him.)

Habakkuk (Circa 603 B.C.) Habakkuk asked God questions. God told him to write the answers down and send them to the people. Habakkuk asked God why He allowed wrongdoing to go unpunished. He decided that even though times were hard, he would rejoice in the Lord. God said, "The righteous will live by faith." What does that mean to you? (To trust God no matter what.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Elijah through Malachi:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the Unit 10 cards for Prophets & Promises Lessons 48-52.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Elijah – Malachi: Elijah (Circa 870-845 B.C.) > Elisha (Circa 845-800 B.C.) > Joel (Circa 830 B.C.) > Jonah (Circa 781 B.C.) > Amos (Circa 760 B.C.) > Isaiah (Circa 710 B.C.) > Micah (Circa 700 B.C.) > Zephaniah (Circa 630 B.C.) > Jeremiah (Circa 626 B.C.) > Habakkuk (Circa 603 B.C.) > Ezekiel (Circa 593 B.C.) > Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Circa 580 B.C.) > Daniel (Circa 580 B.C.) > Haggai and Zechariah (Circa 530 B.C.) > Malachi (Circa 430 B.C.)

Unit 10: 400 Years of Silence (Circa 400-2 B.C.) > The Birth of Jesus (Circa 7-2 B.C.)