



Worship Illustration: Script
The Love Sub
Prophets & Promises Part 2: Elijah - Malachi
Unit 8, Lesson 42

God Answers Habakkuk

Habakkuk 2:2-4, 20; 3:17-18

Running time: Approximately 6 minutes

Setting: The Love Sub scripts (Lessons 35-52) will be set onboard a kaleidoscopic submarine in the late 1960's. The set is designed to look like the interior of an old submarine that also serves as a time travel device. There is a sliding board (the Time Tube) used for the entrance of visitors from the past and a ramp (or steps) to invite children up to participate in object lessons. There are two working portholes; the stage left porthole squirts water and the stage right porthole contains the Bible. Everything is painted in vibrant colors and has 1960's decor. For extra fun, build windows where characters and puppets can pop up unexpectedly.

Characters: Shiloh is Woodstock's nephew. He is very easygoing and easily amused. Harold the Herald comes from the hills of Tennessee. "Handsome" is a human hand (Actor's body is hidden except for his hand.) Handsome assists everyone by handing them props.

Plot: Harold the Herald, who was hired by Habakkuk, arrives. He tells Shiloh how God's people were being disobedient so God sent a message telling them to live by faith. We learn God wants us to trust Him and rejoice in Him always.

Costumes: Shiloh wears 1960's clothes, sandals, a blonde wig, and sunglasses. Harold wears a robe, camouflage hunting hat, and tennis shoes.

Props: Bible, stone tablets, trumpet

Sound effects (SFX):

1. Intro/outro music suggestion: 1960's Surfer music
2. Porthole music suggestion: Song about God's power such as "Power in the Blood"
3. Warning siren
4. Choice bell
5. Promise fanfare
6. Submarine alarm sounds, bells
7. Trumpet fanfare
8. Voiceover: Time Travel Alert

Visual effects (VFX):

1. Video Intro featuring animated submarine is available at ResourceWell.org.
2. Stage right porthole holds the Bible. When it opens, a light shines out and music plays.
3. Warning Lights: Red beacons
4. Warning Slide: ***But the Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth be silent before Him. Habakkuk 2:20***
5. Choice Lights: Blinking spotlight
6. Choice Slide: ***The righteous will live by his faith. Habakkuk 2:4b***
7. Promise Lights: Flashing lights
8. Promise Slide: ***For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and not delay. Habakkuk 2:3***
9. Fallback Slide: ***No matter where you are in time, God is good all the time!***

Adaptations:

1. Sound Effects: instead of using recorded effects, have children make the sounds
2. Voiceovers: may be spoken off stage
3. This illustration is also available in storybook form located at ResourceWell.org

The Love Sub
Unit 8, Lesson 42
God Answers Habakkuk
Habakkuk 2:2-4, 20; 3:17-18

Video Intro: (available at ResourceWell.org)
(VFX: Scientific images, SFX: Newsreel music) **Since the dawn of man, scientists have longed to travel through time! In the late 1960's a crack team of geniuses combined their talents to attempt to break the time barrier. In the Florida Keys, Dr. Woodstock P. Havens was given the task of building a special space shuttle— (SFX: Record scratch) Woodstock: Yeah, but I decided to make a submarine instead, man! (SFX: Intro music, VFX: Animated sub) So, come on and join me as we float through time. Climb aboard the Love Sub!**

Shiloh
What's happenin', dudes and dudettes? Well, dudes, things have been a little crazy around here lately, what with people sliding in and out of time. Today, I thought, maybe, I'd just mellow out a bit. (sits) You know, relax, maybe read a good book or listen to some tunes. (SFX: Trumpet fanfare) Whoa, I've never heard that tune before! (Handsome holds up the trumpet.) Oh hey, Handsome! What's with the trumpet, man? What? Are you pretending to be, like, a messenger from the past? What, like a page or a herald or something? (Handsome gives a thumbs up.) A herald? You're a herald? Okay, what is your message, oh handy herald? What's that? A delivery? There's a delivery on the way? What kind of delivery? Where?

Voiceover
Time Travel Alert! Time Travel Alert! We have a Time Travel visitor in 3-2-1! (SFX: Submarine alarm sounds, bells)

Harold (enters through slide holding tablets)
Waah! Hoo-doggie! I ain't never runned this far before! Where in tarnation am I?

Shiloh
You're onboard the Love Sub, man. But the question is, who are you?

Harold
Allow me to introduce myself. The name's Harold. I'm a herald.

Shiloh
You're a herald and your name is Harold?

Harold
That's right. Harold the Herald, that's me. I work for Habakkuk.

Shiloh
Oh, dude! I've heard of Habakkuk! He's in the Power Source! Let me get it out. (Opens stage right porthole and removes Bible, SFX: Porthole music, VFX: Beam of light shines from porthole)

Harold
Hot diggity! How'd you do that?

Shiloh
It wasn't me. That's God's power.

Harold
That right there is neato burrito!

Shiloh
Hey, Harold, you're mentioned in here?

Harold
I am?

Shiloh
Yeah, man, check this out:
"Then the Lord replied, 'Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it.'"

Harold
Yeah, that's me, all right, Harold the Herald! And, these here are them there tablets. (holds up tablets)

Shiloh
Far out, man. What's on them?

Harold

Well, you see. Habakkuk, he's my boss, he was always talking with God and stuff like that.

Shiloh

Oh, right, 'cause he's a prophet.

Harold

Bingo! And, he's also an Israelite. In fact, we're both Jewish.

Shiloh

Cool.

Harold

Well, yeah ... only ... well, sir, some of them Israelites weren't acting the way we was supposed to. They was bein' all kinds of wicked and not listenin' to God.

Shiloh

That's such a bummer, man.

Harold

I know, right? So, Habakkuk, he's my boss, he was always asking God, "How long, O Lord, must I call for help but you do not listen?"

Shiloh

So, did God send help?

Harold

Sorta, kinda. He sent Babylonians.

Shiloh

Oh, did they help you?

Harold

No siree, Bob! They attacked us! They was mean and nasty and violent and more wicked than our kin folk was!

Shiloh

So, why did God punish you with people that were more evil than your own people?

Harold

That's what Habakkuk was asking, but God warned us:

But the Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth be silent before Him.

(SFX: Warning siren, VFX: Warning lights and slide) **Whoa doogie! What's that? Is that a fire truck?!**

Shiloh

No, dude, that's the warning lights.

Harold

I thought the barn was on fire!

Shiloh

Dude, we don't even have a barn. That must have been God's warning.

Harold

You're right; that's what Habakkuk wrote down. God was tellin' us that He is holy and we'd best hush up and listen.

Shiloh

Yeah, dude, it's always a good idea to listen when God speaks. So, what did the Lord say?

Harold

God said He was gonna send the right punishment for the wrong doers. He also told us what we ought to do in the meantime. God said, "*The righteous will live by his faith.*" (SFX: Choice bell, VFX: Choice lights and slide)

Shiloh

Dude, that's the choice.

Harold

You're tellin' me! That there's some choice writing.

Shiloh

No, I mean that's the choice God wants us to make. He wants the righteous to live by faith.

Harold

Oh, and by righteous, you mean us who obey and follow God.

Shiloh

I do. And, by faith I mean we believe what God says even if we can't always see how or when it's going to happen.

Harold

That makes sense. What God wants from His people is for all of us—

Both

To put our trust in Him!

Shiloh

Even when we can't see the answer in sight.

Harold

And lookee here, God promises if we wait for it, He will send the answer. He called it a revelation. Looke, see here:

For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and not delay.

(SFX: Promise signal, VFX: Promise lights and slide)

Shiloh

What an excellent promise! It'll totally be worth the wait.

Harold

Well, while we're a-waitin', I'm gonna praise the Lord! Listen up! (reads Habakkuk 3:17-18 from the Bible)

Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and there is no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.

Shiloh

Habakkuk made a choice to rejoice.

Harold

That's right, and I got to get his message to the people! God told me to run with these here tablets and that's what I'm a gonna do. Just run and run and run.

(pause) Excuse me, which way is Jerusalem?

Shiloh

Dude, first I gotta send you back to your time, but I hate to see you travel on an empty stomach. Do you want to stay and have a meal before you go?

Harold

Sure! What are we havin'?

Shiloh

I think my friend Handsome is cooking out on the grill.

Harold

Well, I never turn down a good barbecue. Which way to the kitchen?

Shiloh

Right this way! So long, dudes. Keep trusting God and remember, "No matter where you are in time, God is good all the time!" (SFX: Intro/outro music, VFX: Fallback slide)

(exit)