



At-A-Glance: Ages 6-7
Prophets & Promises Part 2: Elijah - Malachi
Unit 8, Lesson 42

God Answers Habakkuk

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

THE WELCOME

MEET & GREET: What is the best message you have ever received?

GAME: Running Heralds Relay

THE WORSHIP THE GOD WHO IS FAITHFUL

Read Worship Scripture: Revelation 21:3-4.

Sing songs and worship God. Bless and collect the offering.

Perform The Love Sub script or read storybook.

THE WORD GOD ANSWERS HABAKKUK'S QUESTIONS

Children sign note cards; place in Golden Bowl. Classroom Covenant.

Review: God chose Jeremiah to tell people to seek Him with all their hearts.

Today, we will learn about Habakkuk, a prophet to Jerusalem and Judah at the same time as Jeremiah and Zephaniah. Point to Jerusalem, Israel. Point to Habakkuk (Circa 603 B.C.). **He 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 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.** Reveal Bible Story Scripture Reference: Habakkuk 1:2; 2:2-4, 20; 3:17-18. Pray.

THE WAY LIVING BY FAITH

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? 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? How do you feel when someone does wrong and is not punished for it? 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.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Have you ever wondered what the word "faith" really means? 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! Reveal Hebrews 11:1. Read.

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 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? 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 GOLDEN BOWL: Pray for individuals. Pray the Lord's Prayer.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES:

- TREASURE TREAT: Oracle scroll
- DAILY WAY CHALLENGE
- OFFERING OF ART: A herald running to deliver the oracle scroll
- PRAYER REQUESTS
- BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG

GOT TIME?

SNACK: Where are the Grapes?

GAME: Drop the Oracle

CRAFT: Rejoice Kazoos

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES: Passing the Light, Kneel & Say

BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW