

Old Testament

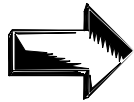
Habakkuk talks to God Habakkuk 1-3

Younger Verse

Jesus said, "I am the ... life." John 11:25

Older Verse

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies." John 11:25



Teachers: This unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament.

PLEASE remember to always include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God's ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

Welcome Time

Have you ever seen someone get away with doing something wrong, while you get caught doing something? How does it make you feel? Let's see how Habakkuk felt...

Bible Story

Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do NOT read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.

Have you ever thought life was unfair? Have you seen mean people get lots of good things while you try to be good and get nothing? Habakkuk talked to God about this.

Habakkuk did not understand why the mean people were growing and getting everything they wanted while God's people were having so many struggles. He didn't think it was fair. So, he asked God why the evil people were "getting away" with the wrong things they were doing.

What do you think God said? God told Habakkuk that He would take care of their sin in His time. He knew that the people were doing wrong and He was going to punish them for it. In fact, He even tells Habakkuk what is going to happen. The people will be destroyed by invaders!

In chapter 3 we find out that Habakkuk was afraid of what would happen. It said in verse 16 that his heart was pounding and his lips were quivering. However, Habakkuk decided to put his hope and trust in God. He knew that God would help him and take care of him. Habakkuk trusted God and was sure that He would keep him safe. He put his hope in God.

Lesson Goals

**Answer the question: Why do good things happen to bad people?"
Explain what it means to have hope in God**

Habakkuk used an example to help us remember this. In verse 19 he compared us to deer (or mountain goats). Deer can climb steep mountain cliffs without being in danger. They can walk safely and not get hurt. Habakkuk was saying that when we are in dangerous spots, we can trust God and know that He will keep us safe and out of danger.

Sometimes we may not understand why good things happen to evil people. But we can remember that God will punish them for what they have done. In Habakkuk 1:13, it says that God is pure and will not tolerate wrong. God will judge these people—and us too. God is pure and clean. He will not allow anything dirty into His presence. So, how can we be with God in Heaven? God loves us so much that He thought of a way for us to be with Him. He gave His Son, Jesus. Jesus died for all our bad wrongs. Jesus took our wrong and died for it. We become clean when we ask Jesus into our hearts and ask God to forgive us for all the bad things we have done. Guess what? God forgives you right then. He makes us clean and pure. He promises that Jesus is with us forever. If we happen to do wrong, what do we do? We talk to God and ask Him to forgive us and clean us. Would you like to have Jesus in your heart? Talk to me about it during activity time.

Learning Activities

There are several craft ideas in the lesson today. Or you may want to talk more fully about what it means to have a clean heart.

Memory Verse Activities

Ask the children to stand up and repeat the verse who are: wearing red, have glasses, wearing shorts, wearing pants, etc. Make sure everyone gets to participate.

Prayer Time

Make a circle and have everyone criss-cross their hands with the right hand on top. Hold hands and pray. After you have finished praying, unfold your hands and everyone should be facing outside!

Snack Time/CleanUp

Bring snacks and enjoy the time with the kids. Take time to eat with them and share in the fun.

Planning for Lesson 101
Zephaniah: The people turn to God
Zephaniah 3:8-20

Preschool Lesson
For
Habakkuk

Have you ever wanted to do something that your big brother or sister was doing. But, your mom or dad told you that you could not do it! Did you feel sad that you could not join in with your brother or sister?

In today's lesson we are talking about a man named Habakkuk. Habakkuk is a funny name isn't it? He was a man who loved God very much.

One day, he told God that he was sad that he and his people were having hard times.

Do you know what God said? God told Habakkuk not to worry about things. He helped Habakkuk see that He would take care of him and that He loved Habakkuk very much.

Later, Habakkuk was scared and afraid. He told God about his problem. Do you know what God said? God, again, told Habakkuk that He would take care of Him. God loved Habakkuk and God took care of him.

God loves us too! He knows that sometimes things are hard. He is glad when we talk and pray to Him about our problems. God always promises to listen to our prayers. He also promises to help us when we ask Him.

Let's sing a song to help us remember how much God loves us! Sing, "I have so much to be thankful for!"

Pray and thank God for caring for us.

Hands-On Activities For Habakkuk

Play a board game and suddenly in the middle of the game change the rules so that YOU win! The kids will undoubtedly say, "That's not fair!" Talk about what it meant to Habakkuk that things didn't seem fair.

Bring really good candy and candy that is mediocre. Hide all but 1 piece of the good candy. Now bring out the candy and the 1 really good piece. Make a big deal about giving out the good piece. Then, pass out the "other" candy. Someone will certainly say "hey, that's not fair!" Ask them to share how it felt to be left out. Talk about how God knows how we feel and listens to our concerns and wants to help us. Now, bring out the rest of the good candy and share with everyone.

Show the kids an ant hill. Explain how the ants are so little that they cannot always see what might be on the other side of the ant hill. Share how sometimes we are like the little ants. We do not know what might be coming up next. However, God sees and knows everything. He loves us and promises to always be with us through good times and bad times.