



HABAKKUK THE PROPHET



HABAKKUK

Instructions

The curriculum we use for elementary aged children goes through the Bible chronologically. Currently we are finishing up the book of Deuteronomy. So that your child can continue their journey through the Bible we will be putting together VERY basic Bible lessons for you to do at home. Below you will find a summary of this week's Bible passage. All you have to do is read it with your kids. Then you will see two different sets of discussion questions. One for older kids (3rd-4th grade range) and one for younger kids (Kinder-2nd grade range). Read the discussion questions with your kids. Remember, discussion is not one sided, it's different people talking together. Give your kids the opportunity to think and speak. I pray the Lord speaks to you and your family as you dive into His word together.

Tell the Bible Story

Habakkuk (huh BAK kuk) the prophet prayed to God. "How long, O Lord?" he prayed. "How long will I cry to You for help and You do not hear me?" Habakkuk had told God about all the violence that was happening in Judah, but nothing seemed to change.

"Why do You let bad things happen? People are fighting and stealing. The bad guys always win," Habakkuk said. God was listening. He knew what was happening. God answered, "Watch! I am doing something amazing, something you wouldn't believe if I told you."

Then God told Habakkuk what was going to happen. God was raising up enemies—the mighty Babylonians. No one could stand in their way. Their army would be strong and fast, like hungry eagles that swoop from the sky to catch little mice in a field. The Babylonians were going to come and make God's people prisoners!



Would this really happen? Habakkuk wanted the evil in Judah to stop, but the people of Babylon were evil too.

“Why do it this way, Lord?” Habakkuk asked. God answered, “I’m going to show you what will happen. Be patient and wait for it. If you are righteous, you will live by faith. It may seem like evil people are winning now, but they won’t win in the end.”

God knows how to deal with evil people like the Babylonians. He promised Habakkuk that the people’s captivity in Babylon wouldn’t last forever. God was going to bring His people back to their land.

Habakkuk prayed. People had forgotten about God. They didn’t care about sin. They didn’t pray. Habakkuk wanted that to change! He wanted people to wake up—to love God and hate sin.

“You have done so many amazing, powerful things. Please do it again so everyone will know You. Be merciful to us,” Habakkuk said.

Habakkuk praised God for His power. The Babylonians were going to come, and life for the people in Judah would be very hard for a while. But Habakkuk had faith, and he would wait for the day when God would rescue His people from the Babylonians.

Finally Habakkuk said, “Even if the trees and vines do not produce fruit, even if nothing grows in the fields, and even if there are no sheep in the pens and no cattle in the barns, I will be glad because of the Lord. I will rejoice in God who saves.”



CHRIST CONNECTION:

Habakkuk lived at a time when evil seemed to be everywhere. By faith, he trusted God’s promise that God would deliver His people. Injustice, violence, and wickedness surround us today, but we can live by faith and trust that Jesus will return to make all things right.



Discussion & Bible Skills - Older

Guide your kids to open their Bibles to the Book of Habakkuk. Explain that Habakkuk was a prophet in Judah. Remind kids that the Northern Kingdom of Israel had been destroyed about 100 years earlier. Like Jeremiah, Habakkuk lived in the last years of the kingdom of Judah. Ask the following questions. Lead your kids and discuss:

1. Why do you think Habakkuk chose to praise God no matter what?

Guide kids to recognize that Habakkuk learned to trust God, who is in control of all things. Habakkuk had faith that God does what is for His glory and our good. We don't always understand God's ways, but we can trust Him to take care of us.

2. Where do you turn for comfort? Why?

Invite your kids to share where they turn when they face difficult circumstances. Remind kids that the Lord is with us and comforts us in our suffering. When we turn to Him, we can find peace and rest.

3. What hope do we have when evil seems to be everywhere?

Assure your kids that even though evil may sometimes seem to win in the world, God is really in control. Like Habakkuk, we can have faith and trust in God. Sooner or later, God will punish the wicked, but it will be in His own time and in His own way.

SAY:

Habakkuk prayed to God because he did not understand what was happening. God answered Habakkuk, and Habakkuk learned to have faith and trust in God. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Habakkuk 1:5.

Discussion & Bible Skills - Younger

Help your kids find the Book of Habakkuk. Remind your kids that Habakkuk is in the Minor Prophets division because it is short, not because it is less important.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Whom did God plan to use to punish Judah?

The Babylonians, Hab. 1:6

2. How will the righteous live?

By faith, Hab. 2:4

3. Would Habakkuk stop praising God if things stayed hard?

No, Hab. 3:17-18



4. Why do you think God punished His people's sin?

Guide your kids to see that God's justice is a part of His love. He punishes sin to prevent sin from growing and destroying more lives. Help kids see that if God simply allowed sin to grow and thrive, He would be going against His very character as a loving and holy God.

5. When you think about God's plan to punish Jesus for our sin, how do you feel?

Guide your kids to discuss their thoughts. Ask them questions about if they feel more grateful toward God, more shocked at His love, or more humbled by Jesus' sacrifice.

6. How can we have faith even when the world seems scary or evil?

Guide your kids to talk about our ultimate source of hope. Remind kids that we know Jesus will return and fix everything broken in the world. We know that evil will not win in the end. If we trust in Jesus, we will live in His perfect kingdom when He returns; if we reject Him, we will bear the punishment of our sin that we deserve.



SAY:

Habakkuk learned to have faith and trust in God. Habakkuk did not fully understand God's plan to use an evil nation to punish His people, but he realized that God would not let Babylon go unpunished either. Our hope comes from knowing that Jesus will return and destroy evil forever.