

Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2010

Through the Old Testament in Two Years

Part Two



Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

Old Testament

Habakkuk

Last week we learned that God told the Ninevites that He wanted them to be loyal, but they worshipped idols. Nahum said that God is slow to anger. God takes care of those who trust Him.

Habakkuk 1-3

Read the Bible

READ: Habakkuk 1:2-13; 3:17-18 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Memory Verse

The Good News shows how God makes people right with Himself. ... It is written, "Those who are right with God will live by faith."
(Romans 1:17-18 NIV)

Begin With Prayer

Have you ever thought life was not fair? Have you seen mean people get lots of good things while you try to be good and get nothing?

Habakkuk was a prophet of God. He talked to God about the terrible things that were happening. "Lord, how long do I have to call out for help? Why don't you listen to me? How long must I keep telling you that things are terrible? Why don't you save us?" Habakkuk knew that God could help. He didn't understand the reason God allowed the wrong things that were happening. People were arguing, fighting, and hurting others. People were not treated fairly and there were few who were doing right. (Habakkuk 1:1-4 NIV)

Goals

1. Understand that Habakkuk called out to God for help.
2. Recognize that God was punishing His people, Israel.
3. Learn that God planned to punish the Chaldeans who were evil people.
4. Understand that Habakkuk put his hope in the Lord.

God told Habakkuk that He was punishing His people, Israel. He understood that it was God's judgment against them. But Habakkuk wanted to know the reason God had not stopped the Chaldeans who were evil people.

Sometimes it seems that people who are doing wrong get away with it. It does not seem fair. It does not seem right. Habakkuk told God, "Your eyes are too pure to look at what is evil. You can't put up with the wrong things people do. So why do you put up with those who can't be trusted?" (Habakkuk 1:13 NIV)

What do you think God said? God told Habakkuk that He would take care of their sin in His time. He knew that the Chaldean 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 Chaldean people will be destroyed! (Habakkuk 2)

Habakkuk — Bible Facts

1. Habakkuk talked to God about the terrible things that were happening.
2. Habakkuk understood that God was punishing His people, Israel.
3. God planned to punish the Chaldeans who were sinful people.
4. Habakkuk said he would put his hope in God.

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 (trembling). But Habakkuk decided to put his hope and trust in God.

Sometimes it seems that God is far away. It may seem that He is not listening to us. But we can always hope in the Lord. Habakkuk said, “The fig trees might not bud. The vines might not produce any grapes. The olive crop might fail. The fields might not produce any food. There might not be any sheep in the pens. There might not be any cattle in the barns. But I will still be glad because of what the Lord has done. God my Savior fills me with joy. The Lord and King gives me strength. He makes my feet like the feet of a deer. He helps me walk on the highest places.” (Habakkuk 3:17-19 NIRV)

The Bible says that “those who are right with God live by faith.” (Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:18 NIRV) Habakkuk knew that God would help him and take care of him. He trusted God and was sure that He would keep him safe. He put his hope in God. We can put our trust in God, too. God sent Jesus to provide a way for us to know God and be with Him forever.

Review

1. **What did Habakkuk do?** (Habakkuk talked to God about the terrible things that were happening.)
2. **What did Habakkuk understand?** (Habakkuk understood that God was punishing His people.)
3. **What did God plan to do?** (God planned to punish the Chaldeans who were sinful people.)
4. **What did Habakkuk say?** (Habakkuk said he would put his hope in God.)

Do You Know Jesus?

We can put our hope in God. He loves us and sent Jesus to provide a way for us to know Him and be with Him forever. Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead. (John 3:16; Romans 10:9-10) If we invite Jesus to be a part of our lives He will come to be a part of our lives forever. If you would like to know more, talk to your teacher.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to provide a way for us to know Him.
3. Ask God to help you put your hope in Him.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to put their hope in God.

Application

God was punishing His people, Israel. Habakkuk called out to God for help. He wanted to know the reason God was allowing the Chaldeans who were a sinful people to keep doing wrong. God answered Habakkuk. He told him that He planned to punish the evil people. Habakkuk knew that he could trust God. Habakkuk put his hope in the Lord.

Planning for Next Week

Zephaniah — Zephaniah 3

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: Habakkuk 3:17-19 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Teachers: Bring figs and grapes for a snack. Allow the children to color pictures of figs and grapes.

Sometimes it seems that people who are doing wrong get away with it. It does not seem fair. It does not seem right. Habakkuk was a prophet of God. He saw evil people that were not being punished. Habakkuk called to God and said, “Your eyes are too pure to look at what is evil. You can't put up with the wrong things people do. So why do you put up with those who can't be trusted?” (Habakkuk 1:13 NIRV)

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 (trembling). But Habakkuk decided to put his hope and trust in God.

Sometimes it seems that God is far away. It may seem that He is not listening to us. But we can always hope in the Lord. Habakkuk said, “The fig trees might not bud. The vines might not produce any grapes. The olive crop might fail. The fields might not produce any food. There might not be any sheep in the pens. There might not be any cattle in the barns. But I will still be glad because of what the Lord has done. God my Savior fills me with joy. The Lord and King gives me strength. He makes my feet like the feet of a deer. He helps me walk on the highest places.” (Habakkuk 3:17-19 NIRV)

The Bible says that “those who are right with God live by faith.” (Romans 1:18 NIRV) Habakkuk knew that God would help him and take care of him. He trusted God and was sure that He would keep him safe. He put his hope in God. We can put our trust in God, too. God sent Jesus to provide a way for us to know God and be with Him forever.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to provide a way for us to know Him.
3. Ask God to help you put your hope in Him.

Memory verse for younger children

Those who are right with God live by faith. Romans 1:18

Learning Activities

•**Memory verse activity** — Bring a grocery bag with plastic olive branches, figs, grapes, cows and sheep. Write words from the memory verse on name tags. Attach to the plastic items. Have the kids practice putting the verse in order. Create a set of the memory verse words on name tags for each child to take home.

•**Test your memory** — Cut out circles to represent grapes. Write key phrases on them. Create a cluster of grapes from the circles as you tell the story.

•**Taste activity** — Bring figs and grapes for a snack.

•**Think about it** — Habakkuk did not understand the reason God was allowing their Enemies, the Chaldeans, to mistreat them. Their enemies were sinful. Talk about how we all have sinned.

•**God told Habakkuk that He planned to punish the Chaldeans who were a sinful people. Talk about how sin has consequences.**

Habakkuk put his hope in God. Talk about how we can put our hope in God.

•**Touch activity** — Allow the children to color pictures of olive branches, figs, grapes, cattle, and sheep.

Make sheep using construction paper and cotton balls. See the internet for ideas.

Make cows using paper plates. See the internet for ideas.

Make deer using construction paper. See the internet for ideas.

•**Run and play** — Play charades. Each child pretends to be an animal and the others must guess what animal.

Play Pictionary. Give the children cards that you create of items in the story (olive branches, figs, grapes, cattle, sheep, etc.) divide the children into groups. Each group will have two teams. One child from one team draws and his team guesses what is being drawn. Then the other team takes their turn.

•**Listen** — As the children take time for silence, remind them that God wants us to put our hope in Him.

•**Sing** — Sing “Solid Rock,” “My Life is in You Lord,” or another song related to the story.

•**Reach out** — During class, pray (by name) for kids who did not come today. Ask the children to go with you to deliver the memory verse activity set to those who were absent. Pray with the children who were absent. Encourage them to read the story in the Bible.

Memory Verse

The Good News
shows how
God makes
people right
with Himself.
... It is written,
"Those who
are right with God
will live by faith."
Romans 1:17-18

Word Puzzle

Trace the letters.

Habakkuk

put his

hope in

the Lord

Word Search

C S P R H O P E L J P N D S D
A E U S S F Y P L P Y K L S R
L † N D G P R A N G N J T M C
L I I U I G D R R J D P K L N
E V S R F D O G C M R B D N L
D C H M P K J V B N T R U S T
W E E P P O T S I O P F G N E
C N R U U L F I S S E V I L †
P I P T N O S N L A E V I L O
S N N B I U M C D E M S L F L
D H W C S S H G P R T A E R T
V T G R H N K M L C B D G S K

CALLED

REASON

LIVE

SIN

STOP

TREAT

PUNISH (USE TWICE)

FIGS

GRAPE

OLIVE

HOPE

TRUST

GOD

SON

† (FIND TWICE TO CREATE
A WORD)

Word Search

C	S	P	R	H	O	P	E	L	J	P	N	D	S	D
A	E	U	S	S	F	Y	P	L	P	Y	K	L	S	R
L	†	N	D	G	P	R	A	N	G	N	J	T	M	C
L	I	I	U	I	G	D	R	R	J	D	P	K	L	N
E	V	S	R	F	D	O	G	C	M	R	B	D	N	L
D	C	H	M	P	K	J	V	B	N	T	R	U	S	T
W	E	E	P	P	O	T	S	I	O	P	F	G	N	E
C	N	R	U	U	L	F	I	S	S	E	V	I	L	†
P	I	P	T	N	O	S	N	L	A	E	V	I	L	O
S	N	N	B	I	U	M	C	D	E	M	S	L	F	L
D	H	W	C	S	S	H	G	P	R	T	A	E	R	T
V	T	G	R	H	N	K	M	L	C	B	D	G	S	K

CALLED

SIN

PUNISH (USE TWICE)

OLIVE

GOD

REASON

STOP

FIGS

HOPE

SON

LIVE

TREAT

GRAPE

TRUST

† (FIND TWICE TO CREATE A WORD)

Word Search

F N B T E L L R G W F R M
C H A B A K K U K M R S C
V G N F R M F M P S K F B
F L H O P E N K B C N M G
B R M P U N I S H F G S D
G S F C A L L R S M S D H
N F W O R S H I P P E D B
S H F L F I G L T Y B D G
D P N I N B V C T R S D F
S R K C N G R A P E T V D
F J N K H H L P S D M F S
M K C R H B O L I V E M S

HABAKKUK

HOPE

CALL

FIG

GRAPE

OLIVE

Word Search

F N B T E L L R G W F R M
C H A B A K K U K M R S C
V G N F R M F M P S K F B
F L H O P E N K B C N M G
B R M P U N I S H F G S D
G S F C A L L R S M S D H
N F W O R S H I P P E D B
S H F L F I G L T Y B D G
D P N I N B V C T R S D F
S R K C N G R A P E T V D
F J N K H H L P S D M F S
M K C R H B O L I V E M S

HABAKKUK

HOPE

CALL

FIG

GRAPE

OLIVE

Anagram

OGDO WSEN

HOWSS

ODG KAEMS

GIRTH

LMIEFHS

SOTEH

VELI

YB TAHIF

MOSARN

Anagram

GOOD NEWS

SHOWS

GOD MAKES

RIGHT

HIMSELF

THOSE

LIVE

BY FAITH

ROMANS