

6

Habakkuk's Song

Worship

We worship God, whose presence changes us.

POWER TEXT

"Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce 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" (Habakkuk 3:17, 18, NIV).

KEY REFERENCES

- Habakkuk 3
- *Prophets and Kings*, chap. 32, pp. 381-391
- Student lesson on page 72 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 18, The Gift of Prophecy
- No. 10, The Experience of Salvation
- No. 22, Christian Behavior

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that God is their friend and companion in all circumstances.
- **Feel** in awe of God's almighty deeds.
- **Respond** by worshipping God and by choosing to trust Him.

POWERPOINT

God is our friend and companion in all circumstances.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

The prophet Habakkuk prays to God about the difficulties facing Judah. God gives Habakkuk a glorious picture in vision. For Habakkuk this is a new picture of God. He knows that troubled times are not over, but he knows that God is in control. He will take care of Babylon at the right time, and He will take care of the sin problem at the right time.

This is a lesson about worship.

Just as God's love enable Habakkuk to rise above his hardships, so God graciously promises to meet our every need today. Though we may be troubled by difficulties and problems, God is patient with us and helps us understand that we can trust Him to help us rise above the difficult circumstances. In response to God's love we will honor Him and worship Him with hearts full of gratitude and praise.

Teacher Enrichment

"To His children today the Lord declares, 'Be strong, . . . and work: for I am with you.' The Christian always has a strong helper in the Lord. The way of the Lord's helping we may not know; but this we do know: He will never fail those who put their trust in Him. Could Christians realize how many times the Lord has ordered their way, that the purposes of the enemy concerning them might not be accomplished, they would not stumble along complainingly. Their faith would be stayed on God, and no trial would have power to move them. They would acknowledge Him as their wisdom and efficiency, and He would bring to pass that which He desires to work out through them" (*Prophets and Kings*, p. 576).

What difficult question am I waiting for God to answer? How will I choose to focus on God's power rather than the situations that trouble me? How will I praise Him for being my constant companion and friend?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice. »

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Defeated Giants*	newsprint, black markers, pens, tape
		B. Picture of Power	Bibles, dry tempera paint in several colors, salt, paper plates, liquid glue, spoons, cotton swabs, lengths of yarn, OR paper, colored markers
		C. God Can Do It	decorated container, paper, pencils
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 67. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, offering plate/basket
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Our Psalm*	Bibles, paper, pens/pencils
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Share a Psalm*	paper, pens or markers
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments	
		B. Reminder to Parents	
		C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:

- ☐ newsprint
- ☐ black markers
- ☐ pens
- ☐ tape

Defeated Giants

Before Sabbath School, draw a ceiling-tall outline of a giant on newsprint (the higher the ceiling, the better). If you have time, add a mean face, armor, and weapons to your giant drawing.

Securely tape the newsprint to a wall. Have students line up single file a few feet away from the newsprint. Distribute black markers, and tell the students that to defeat the giant, someone must make a mark on the giant's forehead. Be sure they keep their markers in their hands instead of throwing them. Let the students take turns jumping and making marks as high as possible on the giant.

Debriefing

Ask: **What does the giant remind you of? What problems in your life are impossible for you to solve?**

Say: **In our lesson today, the people of Judah were facing problems with their enemies, and the prophet Habakkuk turned to God for assurance. Let's say together our power text, Habakkuk 3:17, 18:**

"Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce 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" (Habakkuk 3:17, 18, NIV).

Our power point reminds us that

God is our friend and companion in all circumstances.

(Adapted from *First Impressions: Unforgettable Openings for Youth Meetings* [Loveland, Colo: Group Publishing, 1998], p. 11. Used by permission.)

B

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ dry tempera paint in several colors
- ☐ salt
- ☐ paper plates
- ☐ liquid glue
- ☐ spoons
- ☐ cotton swabs
- ☐ lengths of yarn OR
- ☐ paper
- ☐ colored markers

Picture of Power

Before class, make colored salt by mixing one part tempera paint with two parts salt. Make as many colors as you are able. Ask students to choose a partner and find a place to work where they have access to the supplies you have provided. Tell the students that they are to find a word picture of God's power in Habakkuk 3 and create a representation of that power.

If you are able to provide the supplies, explain that they can use cotton swabs to "paint" the glue onto their paper plate, then use a spoon to sprinkle colored salt on the wet glue. When one color has been applied, they can shake off the excess salt and then "paint" glue for the next color of salt to be applied.

If you do not have access to the supplies listed, provide other art supplies, such as paper and colored markers. When the students are finished with their creations, have them poke holes in the top and add yarn hangers.

Debriefing

Ask each team to show their creation and explain what word picture of God's power in Habakkuk 3 they were portraying.

Ask: **How do you feel about trusting God's power and plan to get you through your difficulties?** Display the pictures of God's power on the wall. **Let's say together our power text, Habakkuk 3:17, 18:**

"Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce 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" (Habakkuk 3:17, 18, NIV).

Our power point reminds us that

God is our friend and companion in all circumstances.

(Adapted from *Helping Children Know God* [Loveland, Colo.: Group Publishing, 1995], p. 107.)

Prayer & Praise

C

YOU NEED:
- ☐ decorated container
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils

God Can Do It

Ahead of time, decorate a large box or container. Label it "God Can Do It." Give each student three small pieces of paper. Ask them to write on each paper one thing that they are concerned about, or that seems way too big for them to solve. After each student has completed their papers and deposited them in the box/container, draw the papers out one at a time and ask, "Who can take care of _____ (what the paper says)?" Have the class answer "God Can Do It." Ask the question about each of the papers and wait for the answers by the students. Say: **Let's say together our power text, Habakkuk 3:17, 18:**

"Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce 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" (Habakkuk 3:17, 18, NIV).

Our power point reminds us that

God is our friend and companion in all circumstances.

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors. Close with a prayer that God will show everyone in your Sabbath School, adults and students alike, a way that He would have them "stand still" in their lives and allow Him to win victories for them.

Suggested Songs

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

"He Will Carry You" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 82)
"He Is Our Peace" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 109)
"Show Your Power" (*Praise Time*, no. 41)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Use Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. Using a world map, have the students identify and mark with pushpins the location where the mission story is taking place.

Offering

Say: **God is always there to guide us through our difficulties. He will use our offering to help those in other countries learn that they also can come to trust completely in God in the middle of their difficulties.**

Prayer

Have prayer in a circle, thanking God for His love and care. Put all burdens before the Lord (ask the students to raise their hands if they have a burden or prayer about items in the "God Can Do It" box from Readiness C) and pray for strength. Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

Remind the students and praise the Lord that

God is our friend and companion in all circumstances.

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

Ask: **At what times do you feel that you just can't understand what is going on? Sometimes it feels as if there are giant problems that God should get rid of somehow.**

Habakkuk felt that way. He asked God about it, and God told him to hang on and keep trusting Him even though there were things God wasn't going to make go away. He assured Habakkuk that He was mighty, that He had things under control, and that He was going to be there with His people through all the trials.

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles

Experiencing the Story

Say: **Before we study Habakkuk's prayer psalm, we are going to read another simpler one from the book of Psalms.** Divide students into two groups. Have them read Psalm 121 aloud together, alternating between groups, one verse at a time. Encourage them to read with expression, emphasis, and in unison. You might ask each group to practice their verses aloud in a corner before reading together antiphonally. (This would be a good scripture to have the students memorize and present at an adult Sabbath School program or worship service.)

When they have finished their responsive reading, ask them to turn to Habakkuk 3.

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- □ Bibles

Exploring the Bible

Ask the students to mark Habakkuk 3 with their fingers and close their eyes while you read the chapter aloud. Ask them to create pictures in their minds of what you are reading. Practice beforehand so you can read expressively. When you have finished reading, ask: **What did you see? How did you feel about God from Habakkuk's word pictures?**

Ask: **How is verse 2 related to the rest of the psalmlike prayer?** (Habakkuk remembers God's mighty acts in the past and asks Him to repeat them.)

How does reciting God's marvelous deeds in the past help us to expect future deliverance "in our day" (verse 2)? (When we focus on God's mighty deeds, we come to trust that He can deliver us from or see us through our present difficulties.)

What past and future events are you reminded of when you read verses 3 through 10? (giving the Ten Commandments, the plagues of Egypt, creation of the world, parting the Red Sea, crossing the Jordan, Christ's second coming)

(If you would like to study further, compare the images found in Psalm 74:12-17 and Psalm 77:16-19 with the images in Habakkuk 3 to find similar images used to evoke awe for God's mighty works.) Say: **Let's say together our power text, Habakkuk 3:17, 18:**

"Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce 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" (Habakkuk 3:17, 18, NIV).

Say: **God wants us to know, realize, experience, feel, and remember that**

God is our friend and companion in all circumstances.

YOU NEED:
- □ Bibles
- □ paper
- □ pens/pencils

Our Psalm

Give students paper and pens or pencils. Ask them to find Psalm 121 once again in their Bibles. Ask them to work in small groups of two or three to rewrite this psalm and apply it to their own lives. They can include the power point in their psalms:

God is our friend and companion in all circumstances.

For example, they may choose to leave verses 1 and 2 the same or to change "hills" and "the Maker of heaven and earth" (NIV) to references that will be more meaningful to them. In verses 3 and 4 they should personalize "not let your foot slip" (NIV) and "he who watches over you" (NIV), again adding more personal references, particularly to difficulties they are facing. Encourage them to create graphic word pictures of God's might and power as Habakkuk did.

When they have finished, ask the small groups to share their psalms with the rest of the class.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pens OR markers

Share a Psalm

Have students share what they learned from adults about trusting God during difficult times. Ask: **What did you learn about God's leading and guidance in difficult situations when we choose to trust Him? How many of you called your friends to share with them how God has helped you in tough times? What experiences did you share?**

Hand out paper and pens or markers. Ask each student to think of someone with whom to share today's message. As attractively as they are able, have the students write out one of the newly created psalms (either their own creation or someone else's that they like).

As the students are working on copying the psalms, have each one share with whom and when they will share it and why they chose that person.

Debriefing

Ask: **How will sharing your psalm help the person you share it with? How will it help you? We are told that remembering what God has done for us strengthens our faith and makes it easier to trust Him the next time difficult things come along. Let's repeat once again our power point:**

God is our friend and companion in all circumstances.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Praise God for His mighty works and His personal interest in each person. Pray that He will make Himself known in a powerful way to each of your students and teachers.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Daniel prays for his people. We can come to God with all our joys and concerns.**

Notes

Student lesson

Habakkuk's Song

You have always had questions. Why? Why? Why? Your parents may even have told you they didn't want to hear the word "why" again. Habakkuk had questions too. When He asked God his questions, he found good reasons to trust Him. (Bible quotations are from Habakkuk 3, NIV.)

Habakkuk the prophet was troubled. It seemed as if God was allowing the Babylonian enemies to conquer Judah. And they were more wicked than Judah was. Habakkuk couldn't understand, so he asked God to explain what was happening.

God let Habakkuk know that things were going to get worse. He was allowing the wicked nation of Babylon to rise in power and capture not only Judah, but Egypt and Assyria as well. But God would make sure that justice was done in the end.

Then God gave Habakkuk a glorious picture in a vision. And Habakkuk discovered a new picture of God—a God patient with his questions, a God who was his friend and companion in all circumstances. Moved by his new image of God, Habakkuk wrote:

"God came from Teman,
the Holy One from Mount Paran.
His glory covered the heavens
and his praise filled the earth.
His splendor was like the sunrise;
rays flashed from his hand,
where his power was hidden" (Habakkuk 3:3, 4, NIV).

Habakkuk remembered the writings of Moses about the power and glory of God displayed on Mount Sinai, when the newly formed nation of Israel was beginning its journeys to the Promised Land. But he had also been shown Christ returning at the end of time for His people to take them out of all the pain, sorrow, and sin of this life on earth.

In the beautiful vision Habakkuk had seen a glorious sky. The most magnificent music of praise had filled his heart, as if it were coming from every direction at once. Christ appeared in the glory of the sunrise. Rays of light flashed from His hands, right from the places where the nails would hold Him to the cross one day.

Habakkuk continued to write:

"He stood, and shook the earth;
he looked, and made the nations tremble.
The ancient mountains crumbled
and the age-old hills collapsed—
but he marches on forever" (verse 6, NIV).

Habakkuk understood now that when God was ready, no mighty nation would stand in His way as He delivered His people—the people who trusted Him and waited for Him to act for them.

Habakkuk wrote again:

"You uncovered your bow,
you called for many arrows.
You split the earth with rivers;
the mountains saw you and writhed.
Torrents of water swept by;
the deep roared
and lifted its waves on high.
" Sun and moon stood still in the heavens
at the glint of your flying arrows,
at the lightning of your flashing spear. . . ."
"You came out to deliver your people,
to save your anointed one.
. . . ."
"You trampled the sea with your horses,
churning the great waters" (verses 9-11, 13, 15, NIV).

Habakkuk now knew that troubled times were not over, but God was in control. He would take care of Babylon at the right time, and He would take care of the world's sin problem at the right time.

Habakkuk finished his song with words of trust for a God he now knew was worthy of that trust.

"Yet I will rejoice in the Lord,
I will be joyful in God my Savior.
"The Sovereign LORD is my strength;
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
he enables me to tread on the heights" (verses 18, 19, NIV).

KEY REFERENCES

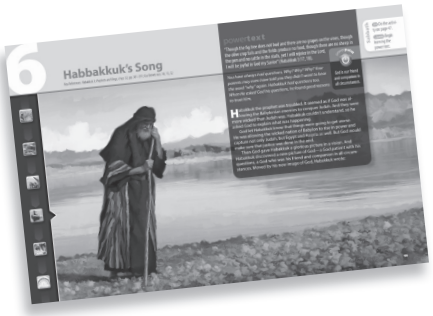
- Habakkuk 3
- *Prophets and Kings*, chap. 32, pp. 381-391
- Our Beliefs, nos. 18, 10, 22

POWER TEXT

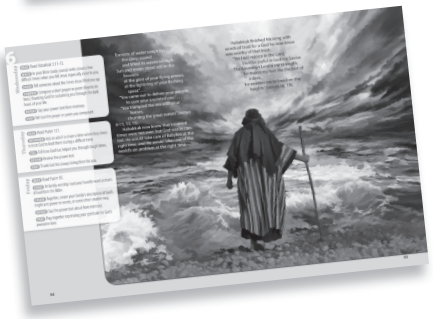
"Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior" (Habakkuk 3:17, 18, NIV).

POWER POINT

God is our friend and companion in all circumstances.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 47.

Sunday

READ Read Habakkuk 3:1, 2 and this week's story, "Habakkuk's Song."

LEARN Begin to learn the power text.

PRAY Ask Jesus to be your best friend. Tell Him that you want to trust Him in every situation.

Monday

READ Read Habakkuk 3:3-6.

SING Sing a song that tells you of God's mighty power.

THINK On a scale of 1-10 (1 being the lowest), how would you rate yourself right now on "rejoicing in the Lord"? Why? Circle the number: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for patiently guiding even though you don't understand some of the things in your life.

Tuesday

READ Read Habakkuk 3:7-10.

DISCOVER Think of two Bible characters who experienced discouraging times and God delivered them from their troubles.

WRITE Write these names in your Bible study journal.

THINK What can you learn from their experiences?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God for hope when you face discouragement.

Wednesday

READ Read Habakkuk 3:11-13.

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write about a few difficult times when you felt Jesus especially close to you.

SHARE Tell someone about the times Jesus lifted you up.

COMPOSE Compose a short prayer or poem (four to six lines) thanking God for sustaining you through the dark hours of your life.

REPEAT Say your power text from memory.

PRAY Tell God the prayer or poem you composed.

Thursday

READ Read Psalm 121.

INTERVIEW Ask an adult to share a difficult time during which they chose to trust God to lead them.

TELL Tell how God has helped you through tough times.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for always being there for you.

Friday

READ Read Psalm 95.

SHARE At family worship, read your favorite word pictures of God from the Bible.

CREATE Together, create your family's description of God's might and power in words, or some other creative way.

REPEAT Say the power text aloud from memory.

PRAY Pray together, expressing your gratitude for God's awesome love.