

Katie



The Sunday  
School Lady



## MINOR PROPHETS

### HABAKKUK

**Scripture:** Habakkuk 3:16-19

**Open:** Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

**Supplies:** Scripts, sheep toy, grape vines, grapes, cow toy, figs, olives, corn, barn stall picture or toy, all objects wrapped in presents.

#### Ask:

Who remembers which prophet we spoke about last week? (Nahum)

Who was Nahum prophesying to? (Assyria or Nineveh)

What was interesting about Nahum? (He didn't prophesy to Judah or Israel, but to their enemies. God was showing his people that he would repay their enemies for the evil they had done.)

Looking to our story this week, I wonder, is there anything that's really hard to wait for? (Allow for answers, i.e. Christmas, birthdays, vacations).

I have some presents here, but we can't open them until the end. We have to wait. You'll see how that applies to our story as we go.

#### Explain:

In the story of our prophet today, he is waiting for something, but it isn't Christmas or a birthday. He is waiting for God to send his righteous judgment on his people.

Habakkuk is an interesting book because it is a record of the dialogue between God and Habakkuk. Habakkuk asks God how long he will be patient and all the wicked to go unpunished? Habakkuk wants to see God's justice prevail where those who do wrong get punished. Have you ever felt that before? If you haven't yet, you someday might. You might long for a sibling to get in trouble over something they keep getting away with. You might want your friend who cheated on a test to be punished for cheating and getting all the answers right when you studied and worked hard but didn't do as well.

**Explain Continued:**

There are also times in life where you'll be waiting, not for judgement on others, but for something God has promised.

Throughout the book of Habakkuk, he asks God how long. And God regularly reminds him to be patient and to trust him. Whatever we're waiting for God to do, we can take that same lesson with us. We can be patient and trust that God isn't late. He hasn't forgotten us or his promises. He is working everything out in his perfect timing.

**Read:** Habakkuk 3:16-19

**Explain:**

Habakkuk decides to praise. Even though he doesn't see any of the promises fulfilled yet, he plans to praise God while he waits. This is a great example for us.

Today, we're going to hear about others in the Bible who waited for God and what happened. As you listened, see if you can guess who it is.

**Activity:**

Ask for volunteers to read the scripts for people who waited on the Lord (make sure the kids don't read the names at the top). As an optional activity, you can use the cards at the end of the lesson to create a scratch off ticket. Simply print the cards and place clear packing tape over the bubbles. Then, paint over the bubble on the tape. This will allow for scratching. Make sure you label each with a number plan for which number correlates with which script. As they read, have the kids listen and guess who it is.

**Craft:**

After guessing, have the kids create their own scrap books to remind them of the people who waited on the Lord.

**Explain:**

God's timing is rarely our timing. We often have to wait on him to fulfill his promises. But we can trust that he will fulfill those promises, because he is faithful and good. So, when we're forced to wait, let's remember how these other people waited on God, and how he fulfilled his promises to them. Then, we can keep hoping and remaining patient, trusting that God is in control.

**Activity:**

Have the kids open the boxes and match the present with the part that was waiting for it (grapes with empty vines, stalls with cattle, figs with trees, and so on).

**Timeline:**

Have the kids color the prophet Habakkuk and place him on the timeline. He prophesied around 612 BC

**Memorize:** Habakkuk 3:19

**Close in Prayer**



Habakkuk



Habakkuk



Habakkuk



Habakkuk

### **Sarah**

Oh hi! Come on in and have a seat in my tent. Can I make you anything? How about some refreshing water from the well? Here you go.

It's nice to have a visitor. We don't always get visitors to our tent as we travel and travel. But I remember one day when three visitors came to my tent, and it changed everything. I was finishing up my morning chores when my husband came in and asked me to prepare a feast because we had guests. I got to work and as I worked, I overheard them talking. I couldn't believe what they said. They said I would have a baby! Me! A baby! It was so crazy that I laughed out loud. You see, I may not look it, but I certainly am past the age of having a baby. I laughed so hard the men heard me! They asked why I laughed, and I lied and said I didn't, but there was no fooling them. Instead, they told me it was true and to just wait. Well, I waited and guess what? It happened. As you can see by my belly, I'm ready to have my boy any day. I think I'll even name him after laughter.

### **Peter- waiting for Holy Spirit**

Did you hear? Jesus went back into heaven! I mean, yes he rose from the dead and he's been walking with us for the last 40 days. He explained everything to us. He really is the Son of God! It's so incredible that I can hardly sleep at night! We have to tell everyone! We have to do what he said right before he went into heaven- go into all the world, preaching the good news, baptizing people, and teaching them to obey everything he commanded us! I'm ready to get started right now! What's that, James? Oh yeah. He told us to wait. We have to wait for a gift that he promised us. That's why we're headed to Jerusalem. To wait.

Waiting isn't really my strong suit. I'm more of an action guy. And it's so hard to wait. I have this good news bottled up inside of me! I just want to share it with everyone. But I suppose I'm being impulsive again. If Jesus told us to wait, he has a good reason for it. I've learned that over my past three years with him. He doesn't always make sense to me. And

I don't always understand everything he is saying or why he is saying it, but he has the words to eternal life. And if he can be crucified and raised from the dead, if he can do all the miracles I saw over the last three years, then I have to trust him. So I'll wait. And pray. And trust his timing for the gift.

### **Israelites in the Desert**

Oh hi. Come on in and have a seat. Can I offer you some manna or quail? I don't have anything else to offer. This desert isn't really the most plentiful when it comes to food. In all honesty, I don't remember what other food tastes like. This manna and quail has been my food for the last 39 years. Don't get me wrong, it's incredible that God has provided for us everyday for so long. All those years ago, we didn't know much about trusting him. We thought Moses had led us into the desert to die. It was so barren. So we complained. And complained. And complained. We didn't trust. That's why we're still here. God had a lesson for us to learn- a lesson of trusting him to provide for us. And provide he has for the last 39 years. But that time is almost up. You see, in just a year we get to cross that river over there. Do you see it? That's the Promised Land on the other side. There is milk and honey flowing in abundance. Can you imagine the taste of milk and honey? I can't really, but I know that it will be worth the wait. The Promised Land will be worth the wait. And through this waiting, I'm so thankful that God has taught me to trust him and how he provides for me. It hasn't been an easy wait. 40 years is a long time. But I know that he is trustworthy and that this Promised Land will be well worth it!

### **Noah**

Howdy! I almost didn't hear you come in! My hammer is always going these days it seems. Pounding and pounding, I'm working hard here with my three sons. What are we building? Walk with me and I'll show you. You see this wood? It curves toward the bottom because I'm making a boat. More of an ark, really. I'm making this massive boat because God told me to. It might sound a little crazy, but he told me that he plans to flood the earth. Rain is coming.

What's rain? I honestly am not quite sure. I've never heard of rain before. But God is having me build this boat so that my family and I can live. He wants to rescue us from the judgment he is sending on the world. Us and all the kinds of animals. Sure, it hasn't rained or flooded before, but God told me to build this boat. So I'm working. I've been at it for almost 100 years and it's close to done. I'm waiting on God to do what he says, while working as best as I can to obey him. Here, grab a hammer and help!

### **Joseph**

Let's look to the next silo for grain. We're close to finishing this one and with these lines, we'll need the next one up and running before tomorrow. Oh, hello. Is there a problem with the grain you received? No? Then what can I help you with? How did I get to be in charge? Oh boy, that's quite a long story. Let's just say, God placed me here. I had a hunch when I was a kid. Not really a hunch, but a dream.

Yes, God told me in a dream that my brothers would bow down to me. It certainly didn't feel like that would happen for a while. After the dream, those same brothers actually threw me into a cistern and then sold me as a slave. After that, I went to jail for something I didn't do. Finally, when I was in jail, Pharaoh learned that God had given me the wisdom to interpret dreams and sent for me because of two troubling dreams he had. Those dreams told that we would have rich harvests for seven years and then severe famine for seven years. I suggested that we save up during the good years to make it through the bad years. He liked the idea and put me in charge. So here we are, three years into the bad years of famine, but don't worry, we have plenty stored up.

Oh look, here come some Hebrews. Wait! Could it be my brothers? I have to go, bye!

### **Elizabeth**

Why hello sweetie, come in and have a seat. Just let me tuck my little boy in for his nap.

Did you hear that? My little boy. I never would have guessed that I would have a little boy. I figured that chance was long gone. But then, my husband came home from his priestly duties and couldn't talk. He gestured and I knew he must have seen a vision or an angel. Luckily, I can read a little, and so he wrote what had happened. He wrote that an angel DID visit him and that we were going to have a baby! Then, when our baby was born, I said we would call him John. No one thought we should name him that because that name didn't run in our family, but they asked my husband, and he wrote that his name should be John. When he did, his mouth opened, and he could speak again. He praised God and we all rejoiced, knowing that this little baby we waited for was something special. And as special as he is, I think we're all really waiting for who will come after him.

### **Abraham**

Well hello, stranger. It's so nice of you to visit. Have a seat while I water your camels. I've just dug this nice well, it's fresh and deep. What's that? You wonder where my kids are? Well, the truth is, I haven't any yet. Yet is the important word. You see, I'm still waiting for my kids to come. How do I know they'll come? That's a good question. I guess the simplest answer is- faith. I believe I'll have a ton of descendants (that means lots of grandkids and great grandkids) someday. I believe because God told me I would.

It's an incredible story. I wonder if you'd believe me if I told you. One night, when it was very dark, the Lord came and spoke to me. Me! Can you believe that? He took me outside and had me look up to the stars. As I did, I was amazed at how many there were. I couldn't count them all. Then he pointed to the sky and told me that I would have as many descendants as the stars. If that wasn't enough, he also told me that my descendants would outnumber the sand on the seashore. So I might not have any of those kids yet, but you better believe that I'm a-waiting. Waiting for God to fulfill his incredible promise to me.

### **David**

Hurry! Quick! Into this cave. You can't be out on the plains too long, Saul's spies might see you. Follow me deep into the cave. I have men stationed there, so we can talk. Ahh much better. What did you want to ask me? How long have I been on the run? Oh boy.

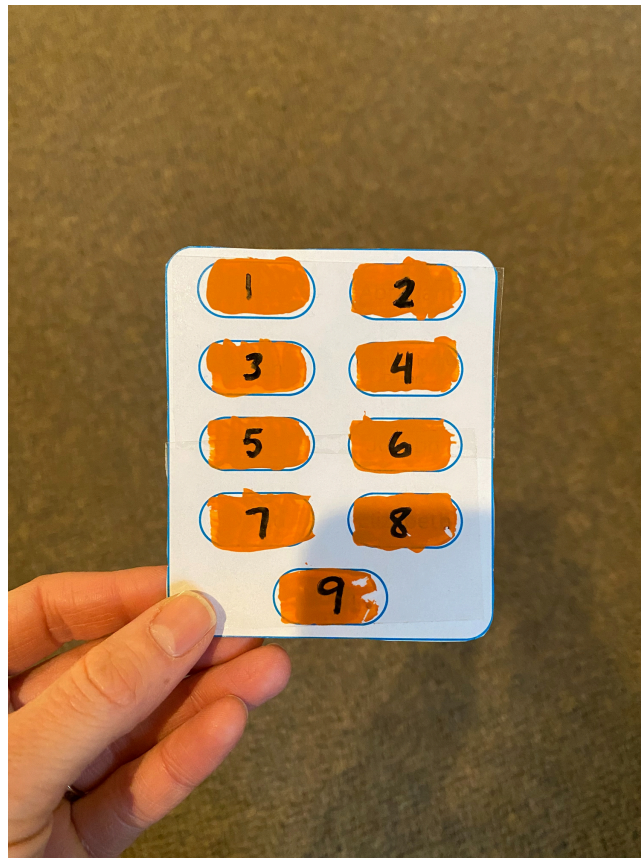
It's probably been about ten years so far. My father-in-law Saul has been trying to kill me because he's so jealous of me. Why is he jealous? Well, because I'm the next in line to be king. He wants to stay king or allow his family to carry on the kingly line, but it isn't going to be. See, he disobeyed God and God has torn the kingdom from him. I'm not sure why God sees fit to give it to me. I'm just a shepherd boy myself. But God doesn't seem to mind that I'm nobody special. In fact, he has been using all the things he taught me early in life to be on the run now. Just like how he used my skill with a sling that he taught me as I defended my sheep against the lion and the bear. I used those same skills to take down our enemy. That's when the trouble began. But it's okay. It has been really hard, but I trust God. He is the one who made me king, and I suppose that, when the time is right, that's just what will happen. Until then, I'll stay on the run, trust God and waiting on him to fulfill his promise



## Moses

Hello, there. It isn't too often that I see people out in this desert. Come on in, I'm packing to make my way to Egypt. Why am I going to Egypt? Would you believe me if I told you I had a rather interesting experience with a bush that was on fire but not burning up? I saw it from far away and had to investigate. When I got there, the voice of God spoke from the bush! He told me to take off my sandals because I was standing on holy ground. Then, God told me that he had seen and heard his people crying out in slavery in Egypt and that he was sending me to bring the people out of Egypt. I argued quite a bit. You see, before, I tried to save these people on my own. They are my people, but my parents rescued me from the wrath of Pharaoh by placing me in a basket when I was a baby. Pharaoh's daughter found me and I was raised in the palace. But I still saw the way my true people were mistreated. So one day, when I was older, I tried to save one. He was being beaten by a slave driver, so I fought back for him. But I ended up killing the slave driver and had to run. I wasn't much of a deliverer, huh?

So I ran and waited in the desert, thinking my time was done. But then God spoke and called me. You see, he's the deliverer, not me. He just plans to use me to show his glory to the world. I suppose that's the lesson I needed to learn in the waiting. But now, it looks like the waiting is over, so I'm off to Egypt. Want to come?



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Desert

Peter

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Elizabeth

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For scrap books for those who waited on the Lord

