

Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 30

READ:

o Habakkuk's prophecy is different from most of the prophecies we have been reading. Habakkuk questions God and seeks revelation from Him, and God answers him.

o Read Habakkuk 1:1---4

Habakkuk's main question is, "Why is God allowing the wicked to prosper while the righteous, those who are following God are oppressed?" When Habakkuk looks around, he does not see justice. Instead, He finds hardship.

o Read Habakkuk 1:5---11

God answers Habakkuk's questions. God states that He will bring justice in a way that Habakkuk never expected. God is going to use the Babylonians to punish the nations for their sins. God describes how fearsome and destructive the Babylonians are. They are a very evil nation, but God will use them for His purposes.

o Read Habakkuk 2:1

Habakkuk Responds to God's answer by asking more questions and seeking understanding. He tells God that he is ready for an extended debate.

o Read Habakkuk 2:2---4

Once again God answers. He tells Habakkuk to write down the vision he is about to receive because it is good news and needs to be told to everyone. God then commands him to tell the righteous to remain faithful even when justice seems to be delayed. It is not delayed but coming. During hardship and judgment, the righteous, all who fear and love God, are to live by faith. God calls His people to live by faith. Then, God explains to Habakkuk how He will judge all the wicked in the world including the Babylonians.

o Read Habakkuk 3:17---19

Habakkuk responds to God's answer by praising God. He remembers God's covenant faithfulness. Then he says, "Even if the land experiences a famine and all my food is taken away and all my livestock are destroyed, I will praise God and have joy because God is my rescuer." Habakkuk understands that even in difficult times God is always with him. God will always provide his needs. God alone is his strength and his savior. Therefore, no matter the situation, Habakkuk will worship God with praise and rejoicing!

The Bottom Line: God inspires faith in the midst of crisis.

QUESTIONS:

In difficult times when something bad has happened to us, how do we often respond to God?

Do we praise Him? Do we blame Him? Or, do we ignore Him?

How should we respond to God during tough times?

Why is God worthy of praise and rejoicing in the good and bad times?

How does this book point us toward Christ and His cross?

MEMORIZE

Habakkuk 3:17---18:

Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

PRAISE:

Praise God for giving us:

Himself

Grace and Mercy

Salvation

Our family

Our church family

What has God done in our family this week that we can give him praise?

PRAY:

Use the ACTS model (Example below.)

- ADORATION – “He keeps His promises.”
- CONFESSION – “Confess times when we have not obeyed”
- THANKSGIVING – “How has God been faithful to your family?”
- SUPPLICATION – “God encourages us to bring all of our needs and burdens to Him.”
- Pray that we will live obediently to God’s Word.
- Pray for your neighbors by name! Pray that God will bless them!

SUGGESTIONS:

These suggestions were created to help parents better communicate the Biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide.

Remember, these suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God---centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God’s Word and worship Him together.

Preschool (Birth---Kindergarten)

o Before you begin think of some examples of difficult circumstances or situations that reflect sadness. Gather some pictures to represent those times. (Ex.: Someone sick in hospital, natural disasters, etc.)

o Tell your preschooler to make a sad face for you. Ask them to give you examples of things that might make them feel sad. (Remember With preschool aged children it could be something as simple as a skinned knee.)

Tell Them that sometimes you are sad too when bad things happen, but you know of someone who is always there for you even during the sad and difficult times. God is always there!

o Just like Habakkuk did when he cried out to God, God wants us to cry out to Him too! God is faithful to His people, and He will show His love to us during these sad and difficult times in our lives. Even when we feel that things are not going right, or happening the way that we want them to, God is in control. That is good news and helps us trust and believe in Him more. And when we love praise God through the sad and difficult times, others will see how faithful our God is, and they will see His perfect love and plan for His people. He will show us how to be strong and faithful even during the sad and difficult times.

Children (Grades 1---5)

o Ask your child to remember a time when they experienced something unfair or they were treated unfairly. Perhaps someone else misbehaved at school yet your child was the one who received a punishment.

o Explain that God's prophet Habakkuk saw unfairness all around him. God's people were being mistreated and faced very hard circumstances. At the same time, other nations who rejected God and wanted nothing to do with Him appeared to be doing well, and their lives seemed to be filled with good things. Habakkuk

asked God why this was the case, and God revealed part of His great and wise plan to Habakkuk. God would use the Babylonian army to judge the wicked nations all around God's people. God would use them to accomplish His plans.

o When Habakkuk heard what God would do he was amazed. He no longer questioned God but instead he praised God for His wisdom and faithfulness. Habakkuk saw that even when things all around him appeared to make no sense, God had a plan and He was working out that good plan. Pray as a family that God would give each of you a heart like Habakkuk; a heart that trusts in Him even when life does not make sense, worships Him even in the hardest times.

Students (Grades 6---12)

o Why do you think some people have a tendency to blame God or become angry with Him when difficult situations arise? For a Christ---follower, what should the response be to tragedies?

o Read Matthew 26:39. When Jesus was facing his death on the cross, what was His response? How was this a display of His faith in God?

o How we can learn to display this same kind of faith when facing very difficult situations?