



Authorised Mess — HABAKKUK

Your details

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Bible book	Habakkuk
Theme of session	Listening to and hearing God
Notes	The name Habakkuk means to wrestle. At the beginning of the book, Habakkuk is wrestling with a difficult issue. Why isn't God answering, listening to him and doing something? It is good to talk to God and let him know how we feel. We need to learn to recognise when God is talking to us and accept his help, even when it is not what we expected. The name Habakkuk also means embrace. By the end of the book, Habakkuk realises that God is present, always faithful and powerful. A reminder to us to persevere in prayer and rejoice in God's faithfulness.

Session details

Categories of activities to get a mix	Activity name	Instructions	Resources needed	Reason for doing this activity
Younger participants	Sound quiz	Listen to the sounds. Cover the pictures of the sounds you hear with counters.	Cards with pictures, large counters, CD of sounds.	We can recognise different sounds. How do we hear God?
Older participants	Tweet wall	Get everyone to write comments on the 'paper' wall.	Huge piece of paper stuck on a wall, colour marker pens. Add headings: Has God answered a prayer of yours? If you could ask God a question, what would it be? Where have you found God this week? In things you have heard, seen, felt, smelled?	God is present with us. Do we recognise him?



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Categories of activities to get a mix	Activity name	Instructions	Resources needed	Reason for doing this activity
Girls	Making bracelets	Make bracelets and decorate with the letters PUSH (Pray Until Something Happens).	Friendship bracelet sets— ribbons, threads, beads, felt, fabric. Letter beads to thread on, or letter shapes.	Sometimes we ask people for things more than once. An encouragement to persevere in prayer.
Boys	Footprints	Walk in paint then walk down the paper.	Paint, long pieces of lining paper, bowls of water, towels.	God is our strength and walks with us in our lives.
Word-based	Placemats	Decorate around prayer, maybe with potato prints of feet or coloured sand. Laminate.	A4 paper printed with Footprints prayer, paint, potatoes, sand, laminating pouches.	God is always there even in difficult times.
Food-based	Pizza	Cut wraps into heart shapes. Add tomato puree, then toppings— cheese, peppers, mushrooms and so on. Take home on paper plates, wrapped in cling film, if not baked.	Wraps, tomato puree, grated cheese, diced vegetables. Paper plates and cling film.	Embracing God. God loves us. Do we love God?
Quiet	Telephone	Have a phone in a quiet corner with the words 'pick me up and talk to God'.	Phones, signs with the words printed on them.	God is always listening.
Quiet	Cup phones	Make cup and string phones. Then try talking to each other across the room.	Paper cups, old yogurt pots and similar, string.	We can talk to God anytime, anywhere.



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Celebration suggestion

In Habakkuk, there was a war going on. Habakkuk was frustrated because he kept asking God questions but God didn't appear to help. But Habakkuk didn't hear the answers.

Here is a modern-day sketch in which people are asking God for help.

A: Me and my family are stuck on this roof, God, and the flood waters keep rising. Please help us.

B: (*Voice from somewhere hidden via a microphone*) I will send you a boat to rescue you.

A: God please save us. The flood is getting higher. A boat has just gone past. God, please help us.

B: I will send you a helicopter to winch you to safety.

A: God please help us. I think we are going to have to swim for it. I hope that helicopter keeps away.

(*Get everyone to mime swimming*) There are some people at the river side. HEY! HEY! Pull us out! Oh good they've got dry towels. (*Get everyone to mime drying*) God why didn't you help us?

B: I sent a boat... I sent a helicopter... I gave you the idea to swim... I kept you all safe while you were swimming. I put the people on the river side and gave them strength to pull you out. I was there with you all the time.

A: Thank you God. You are great. You kept us safe. You listened to us.

Song ideas

✿ 'Welcome everybody' from *I Wonder Why?* CD, Fischy Music. For details, see www.fischy.com.

✿ 'Be bold, be strong' from *Songs of Fellowship*, No. 3. For details, see www.eden.co.uk.

✿ 'Great, great, brill, brill' from *Songs of Fellowship*, No. 741. For details, see www.eden.co.uk.

✿ 'I'm gonna jump up and down' (Be happy) from *Songs of Fellowship*, No. 1887. For details, see www.eden.co.uk.

✿ See children's worship service *God's Listening*. For details, see www.cathysmusic.com.

Prayer response

What is it called when we talk to God and listen to him?... Yes, so now we are going to pray.

Have lip shapes or Post Its ready to give out, and pens. Get everyone to write or draw on the lips/Post Its where they have found God this week. Or they could write or draw a person or place they know who they want to find God. Get them to stick their lips/Post Its on the Tweet wall, thanking God at the same time that they have found him this week, or asking for those people they know to find God.



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Meal suggestion

- ✿ Pizza (made in the activity)

Faith in Homes suggestion

- ✿ When walking to school in the mornings, look around to find God and where he is helping you. Ask God to help you during the day.
- ✿ At teatime, when using your placemat, tell your family and friends when God helped you, where you found God.

Primary School RE idea

Use these ideas in lessons on prayer.