**HABAKKUK 1:-2:4**

***“The Just Shall Live By Faith”***

**Scripture:** Habakkuk 1:-2:4

**Memory Verse:** *“But the just shall live by faith.”* Habakkuk 2:4b

**Lesson Focus:** When everything around us is out of control we can still have faith in God.

**Activities and :** Coloring Page; Worksheet

**Craft for 1st & 2nd  :** “Faith Wheel”

**Introduction:** Read pages from the children’s version of Pilgrim’s Progress: (Pages 6-9; I have

three books and they will be in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade rooms for the teacher of those ages to read to the kiddos. (The one in the 3rd grade room will be used for the teacher of the 3rd – 5th grades in large group teaching time.)

**Bible Study:**

 **Habakkuk 1:1:** *“The Prophets Burden”*

 √ What is a burden? (Things in this life that are too hard to carry, just like

Christian in the book “*Pilgrims Progress.”* Here in Habakkuk it means the prophecy of God that he received. It was a burden because it was God’s judgment on the people of Israel. It was too heavy for him to carry – it was too overwhelming.

 √ What did Habakkuk see? (a prophecy or a word from God, this was a

revelation to Habakkuk from the Spirit of God about the people of Israel.)

 **Habakkuk 1:2-4; “***The Prophets Complaint”*

 (How long shall I cry.)

 √ What is he crying to God about? (the violence that exists among the Jewish

 people in Judah.)

 √ What is his complaint against God?

1. You do not hear (Habakkuk 1:2)
2. You do not save (Habakkuk 1:2)
3. The law is powerless (Habakkuk 1:4)

√ What do you think is Habakkuk’s problem? (He doesn’t think that God is listening because God is not responding. We do the same thing. We pray and expect a response from God immediately. Prayer is not forcing God to do something it is joining forces with God and allowing God to work in His own timing.)

√ How do you feel when you pray and God does not answer quickly?

√ Do you understand that God does things in His own time. Do you understand

 that God knows what is going on in our lives at all times?

 √ Do we have a lot of violence happening in our town, state, nation and world?

Do you see it? Do you hear about it on TV and the internet? Does it bother you? (This is how Habakkuk is feeling. He is seeing all of the evil that we do against one another and he is bringing his complaint to God.)

 √ Do you believe it is wrong to complain to God? Should we be honest with God

 in our prayer life?

 √ Do you believe that God can save at any time?

 √ What is the “law”? God’s written moral code (10 commandments.)

Habakkuk is saying there is no more law. People do not follow the laws of God – everyone does what is right in their own eyes. The laws of the land are powerless – because corrupt people do not follow the law.

 √ Do you think that happens in the United States? Why and how?

There are many times that I think this exact thing that Habakkuk is thinking. That evil people get away with many things that are wrong.

The Bible says in Romans 1:25 *“who exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the creator…”*

We cannot make up our own “truth.” Our source of truth must come from the Bible.

 **Habakkuk 1:5-11;** “*God’s Answer”*

 God is working! He tells Habakkuk that he will be amazed – as a matter of fact

God tells Habakkuk to look and twice that he will be amazed at what God will do. Now this amazement isn’t a “good” amazement. God is going to use the Chaldeans to punish the people of Israel. Paul quotes this verse in Acts 13:41 to speak of God’s work at turning the message of Jesus from the Israelites to the Gentiles.

√ How does God describe the Chaldeans?

1. Bitter and hasty
2. Marches through the earth
3. Taking what is not theirs
4. Terrible and dreadful
5. They have no moral code (their judgment and dignity comes from themselves. That means that they make up their own laws.)
6. Their horses are swifter than leopards
7. Their calvary is not afraid of violence
8. They make fun of Kings and princes

√ Do these sound like nice people?

 **Habakkuk 1:12-2:1;** *“Habakkuk’s second complaint”*

 If God is everlasting and if God cannot look upon evil;

√ Then why don’t you punish evil that is being done.

√ Then why do you make men that choose to follow no one but themselves.

Habakkuk states the age old question “why does evil seem to win or why does God allow evil?”

√ Do you think that evil wins?

√ Do you think that God knows what is going on all of the time?

The book of Romans tells us that God allows all men to choose what they believe and who they will follow. (Romans 1:19-23) God never forces any human to follow Him.

Although Habakkuk has some questions for God He also believes that God will give him an answer.

Habakkuk 2:1 is an amazing verse to me. Habakkuk says that he is going to wait and see what God is going to answer him. He has no doubt that God is going to answer. He is willing to wait. He is learning that God cannot be put on a timetable and be demanded to answer immediately. He also states that God is going to “correct” him. That means that he knows that God will help him see things correctly. And he knows that how he responds to what God says matters.

√ How do you respond when someone corrects you? Are you defensive? Do you always give an excuse? Do you think that you are willing to listen to what people say and change your behavior?

 **Habakkuk 1:2-4;** *“God’s Answer”*

God clearly wants Habakkuk to write down this prophecy. He wants it spread

throughout the land. God is also making it clear that this stuff will happen in God’s timing. What God says He will do! We have to be patient and keep on trusting God.

The writer of Hebrews 10:37, quotes Habakkuk 2:3 referring to the fact that God knows when the second coming of Jesus is. He knows when He will put an end to the devil and evil, and when we will live with Him forever. God’s plans are sure! God’s timing is God’s timing! We are to live by faith and trust that God has everything in control!

God then gives this famous phrase in verse four.

 “But the just shall live by faith.”

God first describes the proud person – “their soul is not upright.” That means that their soul is “sick” it is not right with God. But those that are “just” (walk with God) they live by faith. Faith believes in God no matter what. Faith says that I trust God to be in charge. Faith knows that God knows everything and I do not.

What God is telling Habakkuk:

1. Yes there is evil in the world
2. I am going to punish this evil through the Chaldeans
3. I will do it in my timing
4. You, Habakkuk need to live by faith and trust Me.

**Conclusion:**

 Application questions:

1. Do you think that there is a lot of evil in our world?
2. Do you think that God knows about it?
3. Do you believe that God is in charge?
4. Do you understand why God allows the evil to exist?
5. Do you believe that there is a day that God will end all evil?

Just like Christian in “Pilgrim’s Progress” we are not to carry our burdens alone.

We are not to carry the burden of sin –

because Jesus died to pay the price for our sin. We just need to believe!

 We are not to carry the burden of the evil in the world –

 Because God knows that everyone will be judged and that He will put an

 end to evil.

 We are not to carry the burden of “worry” because God is in control.

 We are only to “live by Faith” in a God who loves us.