**HABAKKUK**

**“Sure Footed”**

**Scripture:** Habakkuk 2:5-3:19

**Memory Verse:** *“I will joy in the God of my salvation.”* Habakkuk 3:18b

**Lesson Focus:** God will help us through the hard times when we trust Him.

**Activities and Craft:** Coloring Page, Work Sheet

Craft for 1st and 2nd grades: Running Gazelle

**Introduction:** Tell the kids that in today’s Bible lesson we will be talking about an animal called a gazelle. Ask them if anyone knows what that is?

Ask them to all stand up. Tell them that a gazelle can run away from danger very fast. Tell them that they are all in danger and when you yell “danger” they are to run in place as fast as they can. Then tell them that when you yell “danger” they are to leap in the air as high as they can go. Have them sit down.

Tell them that today our lesson is going to tell us that God will help us get through the hard times in our lives. Listen and see how a gazelle is used as an example of how God will take care of us.

**Bible Study:**

 Review:

 √ Who is Habakkuk?

 √ What is a prophet?

 √ What is Habakkuk upset about? (evil)

 √ How did God respond to Habakkuk?

 √ How did Habakkuk like God’s answers?

 √ What did Habakkuk say he would do in Habakkuk 2:1? (Wait to hear what God would

answer.) Even though Habakkuk was upset and did not understand things; he was waiting to see what God would say. He was also waiting to know how he needed to change himself.

 √ In Habakkuk 2:4 – how did God tell Habakkuk we are to live? (By faith)

 Now we come to our verses for today’s lesson. God is going to tell Habakkuk five

“woe’s”. What are “woes” in the Bible? They are warnings from God. They are things that God does not like. They are evil.

1. **Woe #1: “**Taking what is not yours.”

**Habakkuk: 2:5-8**

**God’s warning**:

Un-satisfaction – they want more and more and more. They conquer other lands and get the riches but they always want more. They owe money to other countries – they borrow so that they can have more. They borrow money for what they cannot afford.

1. **Woe #2:** “Coveting Evil”

**Habakkuk: 2:9-11**

**God’s Warning:**

Evil: You try to get ahead through evil methods. You lie and give bad counsel to

 those around you. You do anything you can to get ahead.

1. **Woe #3:** “To get your way through killing”

**Habakkuk 2:12-14**

 **God’s Warning:**

Killing: they build their empires through killing and evil

 methods. They work hard for things that have no lasting value.

1. **Woe #4: “**Getting Drunk”

**Habakkuk 2:15-16**

**God’s Warning:**

Getting drunk and causing other to drink is never good.”

1. **Woe #5: “**Idols”

**Habakkuk 2:18-19**

 **God’s Warning:**

Idols are man-made and are not alive.

All of these 5 “woes” or warnings that come with the judgment of God. God tells them that:

* 1. In the same way they used evil – evil will be used against them
	2. That when you sin you sin against your soul
	3. That God will judge all sin.
	4. That God is holy and is alive – unlike dead idols.

2 Promises: In the midst of all this ugly stuff – God gives us 2 promises

Habakkuk: 2:14: there will be a time in history when everyone will know who

God is. The knowledge of God will fill the earth. No matter what bad stuff goes on in this world – there will be a day when God reigns and there will be no more evil.

 Habakkuk 2:20: God’s holiness fills heaven. He is alive and lives in Heaven. He

tells us that the earth should keep silence before Him. That means that when we think of who God is we should be in awe and “hush” as we think about our Holy God.

**Habakkuk 3:1-19: “**A Prayer”

Habakkuk ends the book with a prayer. He is honest in his prayer and he acknowledges who God is.

**Habakkuk’s prayer:** Habakkuk 3:1-3

1. **Honesty:**

√ What is Habakkuk honest about with God? (He heard what God said and he was afraid.)

√ Is it ok to be afraid? Is it ok to be honest with God about it? Why or why not?

√ Why do you think Habakkuk was afraid? (God’s message was a harsh judgment on Israel. It is hard to know that hard times are coming.)

√ What does Habakkuk ask God at the end of 3:2? (He asks that in God’s anger to remember mercy.)

Habakkuk knows that Israel deserves wrath (or God’s judgment.) He began this book with complaining to God about the evil that was going on around him. But he also knows the character of God and our God is a God of mercy.

*“The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy…He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heaves are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him.”* Psalm 103:8; 10-11

√ What is mercy? (To get what we do not deserve.) We have a merciful God that often extends mercy when we deserve punishment.

*“But God, who is RICH is MERCY, because of His great love for us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)…”* Ephesians 2:4-5

God is rich in mercy….there is no end to God’s mercy. When we turn to God and accept His gift of salvation through Jesus Christ; we escape the punishment for our sin because Jesus paid the price.

1. **Prophecy:** Habakkuk 3:4-15

All of these verses refer to God’s punishment and judgment on evil. This is a prophecy of what was going to happen in the judgment of the evil in Israel and a prophecy of what will happen in the last days.

1. **Faithful Victory:** Habakkuk 3:16-19
* When Habakkuk hears the prophecy of how God will deal with evil he comes to a conclusion.
* 1. A natural fear of the reality of God’s judgment on sin.
* 2. A realization of his own sin.
* 3. A prayer that he would trust in God or “rest” during the judgment

 of God.

* 4. A rejoicing heart. Even in the midst of everything going wrong and times that will be hard – Habakkuk choses joy in the Lord.
	+ “I will rejoice”
	+ “I will joy in God”

Can we choose joy when times are hard and everything is going wrong?

How do we get our focus off of the problems around us and choose joy?

* 4. We focus on who God is. Habakkuk ends this book with a praise. He focuses on God is his strength. God will give him the strength to get through anything.

√ What does Habakkuk mean when he refers to “dears feet?”

When he says the word “dear” it actually means “gazelle.” A gazelle is sure footed. It can walk on steep hills and rocks and not slip. A gazelle is very fast. It uses its speed to escape danger. Habakkuk is saying that when we go through hard times – we can be sure that God will help us be sure and to not fall. We still will have to go through the hard time – but God will give us the strength on the inside to walk through the trial.

Gazelle facts: The gazelle's horns are no protection against attack and they must rely upon agility, speed and their impressive leaping prowess to avoid becoming a meal. Some gazelle’s can reach a speed of 60 miles an hour. Many are great “leapers” called “stotting.” They leap straight up in the air with their legs stiff.

**Conclusion:**

1. We can be sure footed when we are honest with God.
2. We can be sure footed when we remember that God is a God of mercy.
3. We can be sure footed when we trust that God will help us through hard times.
4. We can be sure footed when we choose joy!



**“The Lord is my strength;**

**He will make my feet like deer’s feet**

**And He will make be walk on my high hills.”**

**Habakkuk 3:19**