

- Have members huddle into groups of two or three and share some questions that have been troubling them personally. Allow 3-5 minutes for members to share in their groups.

- Then ask members to pray with you. Lead them in a prayer something like the following one which is built around the four major sections of the focal passage (see the "Lesson outline" activity above).

- **Heavenly Father, we acknowledge that you are the one and only God and that you have all knowledge and all power. We just want to be silent for a moment in your presence, Lord.** (Pause for 30 seconds of silence.)

**Because of your awesomeness, we confess that we are sometimes confused how certain situations could exist in our lives and in the lives of others. We have just been sharing with one another**

### **Wrapping It Up**

- Even when all else fails, believers can have hope in the presence and sufficiency of God. In fact, sometimes it takes the failure of everything we try to do to remind us to put our hope in God alone.



#### **Faith at Home**

Write the words HUSH, PRAY, WAIT, REJOICE, on a sheet of paper or napkin. Ask family members to tell about a time they responded to a crisis with one or more of those actions.

**some of the troubling questions that we have. And, right now, we want to ask you those questions, each of us asking you silently the questions that are troubling us most.** (Pause for about 30 seconds while members pray silently.)

**And now, having asked you those questions, we want to wait for your response. You may not answer us immediately. You may not answer us today. But we will wait, expecting to hear from you.** (Pause for 30 seconds.)

**Finally, Father, we want to rejoice in you and in the hope that we have because of you. Although things may not be going as we want them to, we find joy and strength in our relationship with you. We love you, Lord. Amen.**

# Teacher's Toolbox

*Getting your class into God's Word  
and God's Word into your class*

**ExcitingBibleStudy.com**

**Bible Series**

**Habakkuk 2:18-3:19**

**May 3, 2015**

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**HOW TO USE TEACHER'S TOOLBOX:** Make a four-page folded teacher's leaflet from the first two sheets by printing two-sided (or by putting the blank sides together). The other two sheets are for duplicating, displaying, distributing, or otherwise using as called for in the lesson plan.

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**Faith at Home** – A specific application of today's Bible passage to family life, to be used for individual reflection, family discussion, or class activity.



### **Getting Started**

#### **Silent brainstorming**

- In advance, write one of the following headings at the top of three different sheets of paper:
  - Crises we may face in the future
  - Ways we prepare for the future
  - Reasons our plans for the future may go wrong
- Hand each sheet to a different person. Ask them to list one item related to the heading, then pass the sheet to the person beside them. Continue until all have had input on each sheet.
- Ask the persons who end up with the sheets to read aloud the heading and the items listed.

## Exploring God's Word

### Lesson outline

- Draw a large circle on the chalkboard. Divide it into quarters. Starting with the upper left quarter and moving clockwise, write one of the following words (and accompanying Scripture reference) in each section of the circle:

- HUSH (2:18-20)
- PRAY (3:1-2)
- WAIT (3:16)
- REJOICE (3:17-19)

- Use the outline to guide the study of the focal passage. Suggest that the four sections tell us actions to take when unexpected crises come in our lives.

### Choral reading

- Pass out copies of the following choral reading (duplicate Item 1). Appoint persons to read the parts of 1, 2, and 3.
- Divide the class into two groups, designated A and B. (You can divide by gender, initial of last name, or birth month.) Point out the lines to be read by each group.
- Call attention also to the lines to be read by ALL of the class.
- Ask the person designated as 1 to begin the reading.

### Choral Reading

1 Of what value is an idol, since a man has carved it?

2 Or an image that teaches lies?  
3 For he who makes it trusts in his own creation; he makes idols that cannot speak.

A Woe to him who says to wood,  
1 "Come to life!"

B Or to lifeless stone,  
1 "Wake up!"  
2 Can it give guidance? It is covered with gold and silver; there is no breath in it.

ALL But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him.

3 Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord. Renew them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.

1 I heard and my heart pounded, my lips quivered at the sound;

2 Decay crept into my bones, and my legs trembled.

1 and 2 Yet I will wait patiently for the day of calamity to come on the nation invading us.

3 Though the fig tree does not bud  
1 And there are no grapes on the vines,

2 Though the olive crop fails

1 and 3 And the fields produce no food,

1, 2, and 3 Though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls,

A Yet I will rejoice in the Lord,

B I will be joyful in God my Savior.

ALL The Sovereign Lord is my strength;

1 He makes my feet like the feet of a deer,

2 He enables me to go on the heights.

### Group work

- Divide the class into four groups and give each group paper and pencil. Assign each group one of the four sections of the outline. Ask them to study the passage and write a paragraph, following this format:

"When we face an unexpected crisis in our lives, the (first, second, third, fourth) thing we should do is (hush, pray, wait, rejoice). Habakkuk . . . (tell what he did as described in this passage). In the same way, we . . . (tell what we should do as related to this part of the outline)."

- Allow groups 5 minutes to study and write. Then have each group read aloud (1) the verses assigned to them, and (2) the paragraph they wrote.

### Group discussion

- Use the following questions to guide a group discussion:
  - What are some "idols" or man-made things that we sometimes allow to take God's place in our lives?
  - How can we use memories of past events to refocus our lives on God?
  - What are some times when you have had to wait patiently for God's answer? How did you handle those times?
  - Is it easier to praise God when everything is going our way or when we are facing problems, troubles, and crises? Why?

## Making It Personal

### Modernizing a passage

- Have members find a partner. Give each partnership a pencil and a copy of the following (duplicate Item a2).

### Modernizing a Passage

*Read Habakkuk 3:17-19. Then fill in the blanks below with words and phrases the prophet might have used if he had written the words in 20th Century U.S.A.*

Though the \_\_\_\_\_ does not \_\_\_\_\_,  
And there are no \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_,  
Though the \_\_\_\_\_ fails,  
And the \_\_\_\_\_ produce no \_\_\_\_\_,  
Though there are no \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_,  
And no \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_,  
Yet I will rejoice in the Lord,  
I will be joyful in God my Savior.  
The Sovereign Lord is my strength;  
He makes my \_\_\_\_\_ like the \_\_\_\_\_,  
He enables me to \_\_\_\_\_.

- Allow partners five minutes to fill in the blanks. Then let volunteers read theirs aloud.

### Asking God

- Remind the class that Habakkuk was a man willing to ask God the questions that troubled him and wait for God's answers.

# Choral Reading

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B Or to lifeless stone,

1 "Wake up!"

2 Can it give guidance? It is covered with gold and silver; there is no breath in it.

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