

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

A lectionary-based Sunday school curriculum for Pre-K through High School



**PROPER 22
YEAR C**

**Sunday from
October 2 to
October 8**

A free resource created by the Christian Education Commission
of the Anglican Diocese of Fort Worth

Sunday School Lesson for Proper 22, Year C

Sunday from October 2 to October 8

Lectionary Texts:

Habakkuk 1:1-13, 2:1-4
Psalm 37:1-17
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

Habakkuk 1:1-13; 2:1-4

¹ This is a vision the prophet Habakkuk received from the Lord. Here is what Habakkuk said.

Habakkuk Asks the Lord a Question

² Lord, how long do I have to call out for help?

Why don't you listen to me?

How long must I keep telling you
that things are terrible?

Why don't you save us?

³ Why do you make me watch while
people treat others so unfairly?

Why do you put up with the wrong things
they are doing?

I have to look at death.

People are harming others.

They are arguing and fighting all the time.

⁴ The law can't do what it's supposed to do.

Fairness never comes out on top.

Sinful people surround those
who do what is right.

So people are never treated fairly.

The Lord Gives His Answer

⁵ The Lord replies,

"Look at the nations. Watch them.

Be totally amazed at what you see.

I am going to do something in your days
that you would never believe.

You would not believe it

even if someone told you about it.

⁶ I am going to send the armies of Babylon to attack you.

They are very mean. They move quickly.
They sweep across the whole earth.
They take over places
that do not belong to them.

⁷ They terrify others.
They do not recognize any laws but their own.
That is how proud they are.

⁸ Their horses are faster than leopards.
They are meaner than wolves in the dark.
Their horsemen charge straight into battle.
They ride in from far away.
They come down like an eagle
diving for its food.

⁹ All of them are ready to destroy others.
Their huge armies advance like a wind out of the desert.
They gather prisoners like sand.

¹⁰ They laugh at kings
and make fun of rulers.
They laugh at all of the cities
that have high walls around them.
They build dirt ramps against the walls
and capture the cities.

¹¹ They sweep past like the wind.
Then they go on their way.
They are guilty.
They worship their own strength.”

Habakkuk Asks the Lord Another Question

¹² Lord, haven't you existed forever?
You are my holy God.
So we won't die, will we?
Lord, you have appointed the Babylonians
to punish your people.
My Rock, you have chosen them to judge us.

¹³ Your eyes are too pure to look at what is evil.
You can't put up with the wrong things people do.
So why do you put up
with those who can't be trusted?
The evil Babylonians swallow up
those who are more godly than themselves.
So why are you silent?

¹⁴ You have made men as if they were only fish in the sea.
They are like sea creatures that don't have a ruler.

¹⁵ The evil Babylonians pull all of them up with hooks.
They catch them in their nets.

They gather them up.
So they celebrate.
They are glad.
¹⁶ They offer sacrifices to their nets.
They burn incense to them.
Their nets allow them to live in great comfort.
They enjoy the finest food.
¹⁷ Are you going to let them
keep on emptying their nets?
Will they go on destroying nations
without showing them any mercy?
2 I will go up to the lookout tower.
I'll station myself on the city wall.
I'll wait to see how the Lord will reply to me.
Then I'll try to figure out how to answer him.

The Lord Gives His Answer

² The Lord replies,
"Write down the message I am showing you in a vision.
Write it clearly on the tablets you use.
Then a messenger can read it
and run to announce it.
³ The message I give you
waits for the time I have appointed.
It speaks about what is going to happen.
And all of it will come true.
It might take a while.
But wait for it.
You can be sure it will come.
It will happen when I want it to.
⁴ "The Babylonians are very proud.
What they want is not good.
"But the one who is right with God
will live by faith.

Psalm 37:1-18

A psalm of David.

¹ Don't be upset because of sinful people.
Don't be jealous of those who do wrong.
² Like grass, they will soon dry up.
Like green plants, they will soon die.
³ Trust in the LORD and do good.
Then you will live in the land and enjoy its food.

⁴ Find your delight in the LORD.
Then he will give you everything your heart really wants.

⁵ Commit your life to the LORD.
Here is what he will do if you trust in him.

⁶ He will make your godly ways shine like the dawn.
He will make your honest life shine like the sun at noon.

⁷ Be still. Be patient. Wait for the LORD to act.
Don't be upset when other people succeed.
Don't be upset when they carry out their evil plans.

⁸ Keep from being angry. Turn away from anger.
Don't be upset. That only leads to evil.

⁹ Sinful people will be cut off from the land.
But it will be given to those who put their hope in the LORD.

¹⁰ In a little while, there won't be any more sinners.
Even if you look for them, you won't be able to find them.

¹¹ But those who are free of pride will be given the land.
They will enjoy great peace.

¹² Sinful people make plans to harm those who do what is right.
They grind their teeth at them.

¹³ But the Lord laughs at those who do evil.
He knows the day is coming when he will judge them.

¹⁴ Sinners pull out their swords.
They bend their bows.
They want to kill poor and needy people.
They plan to murder those who lead honest lives.

¹⁵ But they will be killed with their own swords.
Their own bows will be broken.

¹⁶ Those who do what is right may have very little.
But it's better than the wealth of many sinners.

¹⁷ The power of those who are evil will be broken.
But the LORD takes good care of those who do what is right.

2 Timothy 1:1-14

¹ I, Paul, am writing this letter. I am an apostle of Christ Jesus just as God planned. He sent me to tell about the promise of life that is found in Christ Jesus.

² Timothy, I am sending you this letter. You are my dear son.

May God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord give you grace, mercy and peace.

Paul Tells Timothy to Be Faithful

³ I serve God, knowing that what I have done is right. That is how our people served him long ago. Night and day I thank God for you. Night and day I always remember you in my prayers.

⁴ I remember your tears. I long to see you so that I can be filled with joy. ⁵ I remember your honest and true faith. It was alive first in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice. And I am certain that it is now alive in you also.

⁶ That is why I remind you to help God's gift grow, just as a small spark grows into a fire. God put his gift in you when I placed my hands on you.

⁷ God didn't give us a spirit that makes us weak and fearful. He gave us a spirit that gives us power and love. It helps us control ourselves. ⁸ So don't be ashamed to give witness about our Lord. And don't be ashamed of me, his prisoner. Instead, join with me as I suffer for the good news. God's power will help us do that. ⁹ God has saved us. He has chosen us to live a holy life. It wasn't because of anything we have done. It was because of his own purpose and grace. Through Christ Jesus, God gave us that grace even before time began. ¹⁰ It has now been made known through the coming of our Savior, Christ Jesus. He has destroyed death. Because of the good news, he has brought life out into the light. That life never dies. ¹¹ I was appointed to announce the good news. I was appointed to be an apostle and a teacher. ¹² That's why I'm suffering the way I am. But I'm not ashamed. I know the One I have believed in. I am sure he is able to take care of what I have given him. I can trust him with it until the day he returns as judge. ¹³ Follow what you heard from me as the pattern of true teaching. Follow it with faith and love because you belong to Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard the truth of the good news that you were trusted with. Guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

Luke 17:5-10

⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, "Give us more faith!" ⁶ He replied, "Suppose you have faith as small as a mustard seed. Then you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up. Be planted in the sea.' And it will obey you.

⁷ "Suppose one of you had a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. And suppose the servant came in from the field. Would you say to him, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'? ⁸ No. Instead, you would say, 'Prepare my supper. Get yourself ready. Wait on me while I eat and drink. Then after that you can eat and drink.' ⁹ Would you thank the servant because he did what he was told to do?

¹⁰ "It's the same with you. Suppose you have done everything you were told to do. Then you should say, 'We are not worthy to serve you. We have only done our duty.' "

Overview of Texts:

Our Sunday School lessons for today center around the theme of faith. In our Old Testament lesson the prophet Habakkuk cries out to God for justice as he looks out at the evil and wickedness throughout his land of Judah. God answers that he is to write down the vision that he has so others might read it. Within his prophecy we learn that the righteous, the one who is "right with God" lives by faith. In our Epistle lesson Paul thanks God for the wonderful faith that Timothy has had since he was a child. He then

reminds Timothy to stir up the gift of the Holy Spirit that he received at his ordination (laying on of hands), so that he might witness to the faith with boldness. This advice applies to all Christians in their lives. We're all to witness to our faith in boldness, since God has chosen us to receive his saving grace. Paul goes on to say that this wonderful faith is why he's suffering persecution now and he encourages us to suffer likewise for this wonderful faith in God's mercy. In our Gospel lesson we find that the disciples are asking for more faith. Jesus reminds them of the awesome power of faith, even if they have only a little. He also reminds them, though, not to look to God for reward for their labor, since they are only doing their duty to God.

PreK – Kindergarten Lesson Plan

Opening Prayer: Lord's Prayer

Supplies and Preparation:

Supplies: Blindfolds (enough for everyone in the class) – these can be easily made from an old bed sheet cut into strips, and at least two adults in the class.

Preparation: Make sure that doors are open through the church hallway, and a particular pathway is mapped out around your church.

Lesson:

Have all of the kids line up in a single file line in their classroom, then have them each put on a blindfold. Once everyone has their blindfold, they'll put their hands on the shoulder of the person in front of them. Then an adult will guide the hands of the person in the front of the line and another adult will stay towards the back to keep the line from bumping into anything. Guide the kids through your church hallway, and maybe inside an empty classroom, where they can go around in circles and not know where they are. Lead them around as long as it takes to get them disoriented then lead them back to their original classroom.

Discussion:

- What does the word "faith" mean?
- Could you see the person in front of you when we walked?
- Can any of you see God or Jesus today?
- Does everyone know what faith is? Faith is following even when you can't see the person leading you.
- (Read the first two verses of the Gospel lesson)
- A mustard seed is very small, but even that much faith can do amazing things.
- Even though you are small, God can do great things with you if you have faith in him.

Closing Prayer: Lord's Prayer

Opening Prayer: Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, and Gloria Patri

Supplies and Preparation:

Supplies: Blindfolds (enough for everyone in the class) – these can be easily made from an old bed sheet cut into strips, and at least two adults in the classroom.

Preparation: Make sure that doors are open through the church hallway, and a particular pathway is mapped out around your church.

Lesson:

Have all of the kids line up in a single file line in their classroom, then have them each put a blindfold on. Once everyone has their blindfold, they'll put their hands on the shoulder of the person in front of them. Then an adult will guide the hands of the person in the front of the line and another adult will stay towards the back to keep the line from bumping into anything. Guide the kids through your church hallway, and maybe inside an empty classroom, where they can go around in circles and not know where they are. Lead them around as long as it takes to get them disoriented then lead them back to their original classroom.

Discussion:

- Was it hard walking with the blindfolds?
- Were you afraid that you were going to fall or hit something?
- Did you think we were going to walk you into a wall? Why not?
- (Read the first 2 verses of the Gospel lesson)
- In today's Gospel Lesson what do Jesus' disciples ask Jesus for? (Faith)
- What is Faith to you? (Believing and Trusting)
- Believing and Trusting in What? (Having faith is like when you were walking blindfolded. You had to trust that the person in front of you wasn't going to lead you into a wall. We believe and trust in God that he's not going to lead us the wrong way.)
- Did you know all the places where we took you? (Just like in our "Faith Walk" there will be times in our Christian life where we don't know what God has for us or where he's taking us, but we can trust him that he only wants what's best for us. Sometimes we won't know why something is happening to us, but we can always trust that God is guiding us and in control.)

Closing Prayer: The Collect of the Day

Junior High Lesson Plan

Opening Prayer: Lord's Prayer, Apostles' Creed, and Hail Mary

Supplies & Preparation:

Supplies: None

Preparation: None

Lesson:

Read through each of the lessons, having a different student read each lesson (multiple students may be chosen for the lesson from Habakkuk). After each lesson is complete have the kids talk about what's going on in that particular lesson, encouraging them to come to a group summary of the reading, in their own words. The leader should feel free to use the above Overview of Texts section to guide the conversation and offer context for the students.

Discussion:

- What are all the lessons about today? (Here's a hint, it's what the disciples ask Jesus for: faith.)
- What is Faith? (Believe and Trust)
- Is Faith something that you have on the inside or the outside? (Inside)
- In the Book of James, James says that "faith without works is dead" so what does that mean about our faith? (We can't just say that we're Christian but we have to show it, too. You can't just talk the talk, you have to walk the walk.)
- At your school, if you didn't already know who was a Christian and who wasn't, would you be able to tell the difference?
- Imagine that a spy was assigned to follow you around for a week. How would they know that you were a Christian?
- What are some ways that you can show your faith to others, besides just going to Church on Sunday?
- What are the dangers of trying to *show off* your faith?
- What are some things that challenge your faith? (For examples, see the Habakkuk and Psalm readings. Seeing the wicked prosper, seeing suffering, asking for help from God and not getting it when we want it or how we want it.)
- What does God do to reassure us of his love and mercy when we see these difficult situations? (He reminds us that His plan for us is much greater, that our faith is rewarded by the perseverance and fortitude that God gives us, and that our ultimate reward is waiting in heaven. He also promises that those who are wicked will be taken care of in His time.)
- Do we seek a reward for our faith in God? (The scriptures tell us that there is a reward for us in that God is with us in our struggles, has redeemed us, and will give us eternal life in heaven, however, we must be careful not to expect material rewards.)

- Can God work with a small faith or does he require you to have a strong faith and all the answers up front? (Example of the mustard seed)
- Are we expected to work at our faith or just let God grow it for us? (We must put something into it to get something out. God invites us to faith and provides the means, but it does require our assent. We must accept His gift and then nurture and care for it our whole lives.)
- Is there a time when we can say that we have perfect faith and need not strive for anything greater? (Our conversion is not a single moment, but a lifelong process. We need to continue to work at our faith even if we feel we are spiritually mature. We never stop learning and growing in faith.)

Closing Prayer: The Collect of the Day

Senior High Lesson Plan

Opening Prayer: Lord's Prayer, Apostles' Creed, and Hail Mary

Supplies & Preparation:

Supplies: Whiteboard and markers or chalkboard and chalk – anything on which you write up lists from the discussions.

Preparation: Press clippings concerning people who are suffering worldwide or locally for the faith.

Lesson:

Read through each of the lessons, having a different student read each lesson (multiple students may be chosen for the lesson from Habakkuk). After each lesson is complete have the kids talk about what's going on in that particular lesson, encouraging them to come to a group summary of the reading, in their own words. The leader should feel free to use the above summaries to guide the conversation and offer context for the students.

Discussion:

- Have you ever been made fun of for doing something you knew was right?
- How does it feel?
- Did it make you want to change what you were doing and do what everyone else was doing?
- Have you ever been made fun of because of your faith?
- Did you want to pretend like you weren't Christian?
- What does our Epistle Lesson say about how you should live your faith? (Be bold in your faith and don't shrink back.)
- What are ways that you can respond to people who attack you because of your faith? (Always respond in love and never in anger or hate.)

- How did Jesus respond when people attacked and insulted him? (Explore how Jesus responded in love to those who insulted and attacked him, yet he never stopped speaking the truth and he never stopped his journey to the Cross.)
- Do you know that there are still some Christians living today who are dying for their faith? (See www.persecution.com and www.kidsofcourage.com.)
- What do you think you would do in that situation?
- You probably will not ever face the possibility of death for your faith, but you are still called to that kind of courage and faith. What are some ways both big and small that you can face persecution?
- Give some examples of persecution that you see happening in your environments or in our country in general. (Remember that persecution can look like a lot of different things. It does not have to be violent, it does not have to be an obvious loss of rights. It can be very subtle – for example, how Christians are portrayed on TV or how Christian values are spoken of by the media or how news stories of things that are important to Christians are covered poorly, with a skewed perspective, or not covered at all.)
- Make a list of what the possible results of being bold in your faith are – both good and bad. Discuss how God helps us with the bad results.
- If we experience troubles when we are bold, is it a sign that we should stop? (No! Often tribulations are a sign that we are on the right track. The devil does not want us to be bold, for others to hear our message. He will do everything he can to thwart us. Opposition, especially from people we care about, is a common ploy the devil uses.)
- Discuss ways to be bold. Remind the students that actions speak louder than words.

Closing Prayer: The Collect of the Day