



Materials I Need:

Memory Work:

Learning the Old Testament books of the Bible

The Prophet Habakkuk
The People Judah
The Prophecy Habakkuks questions are answered.
The Principle We must trust God to decide the right plan.

Aim Questions:

1. Who is Habakkuk? (He was a peculiar prophet who worked in the temple. A contemporary of Jeremiah, a recognized prophet in Judah. His words to the music director in Habakkuk 3:1 may indicate that he was also a priest who was acquainted with the temple orchestra.)
2. How could Habakkuk be called the "WHYS" Prophet?
3. What questions did Habakkuk ask God?
4. How do you think God felt about being questioned?
5. What was Gods response to Habakkuk?
6. Are you learning to trust God in everything? (Trusting God in all things puts us in a right relationship with him!!!)

Hook:

WHY. Come up with an unusual list of questions for the Bible students. Divide them into groups of 2 or 3 and have them come up with answers. Award 5 points for the most unique (funny) answer and 10 points for the most "real" answer. When all of the points are tallied award the winning team with "WHYS GUYS" bookmarks. **3HAB18JR.GF1**

Sample list of question:


1. Why do zebras have stripes?
2. Why do some people go bald?
3. Why is the world round?
4. Why did the chicken cross the road?
5. Why does an ostrich put his head in the ground?
6. Why are there fences around cemeteries?
7. Why do Moms say just because?


Discuss Whys Of Today. The questions really are not new that people have about God, Faith and the Bible. Today, as much as any time in history, people have questions that prevent them from accepting the God of the Bible and the Savior, Jesus Christ, whom He provided. Truthfully some people ask such questions only as excuses to remain in disbelief, but often such questions are honest and sincere. Ephesians 6 tells us that the shield of faith is given to Christians to douse the fiery arrows that Satan may send our way. Though we have faith, Christians need never hide from

honest questions that unsaved and even saved people may ask. A survey that was conducted several years ago of people who had grown up in Christian homes, but still walked away from Christianity. This survey shed light on questions that bolster disbelief. When asked what were their reasons for leaving the faith of their parents, many of those surveyed reported that parents and other leaders ignored and avoided these difficult questions, and even attempted to shame these kids for their questions of disbelief. Habakkuk asked tough questions, and God answered. Even an answer of, "I don't know, but I will find out", is better than ignoring honest questions. Ken Boa & Larry Moody's book I'm Glad You Asked lists some of these most commonly asked questions. Here is a sample of their list:

1. How can you be sure there really is a God?
2. If God is good, why do evil and suffering exist?
3. Would God reject people who have lived basically good lives?
4. Can anyone be sure he will go to heaven?

You may need to do a little bit of study to offer biblical answers to these questions, if you are unsure. Begin your class by writing one or more of these questions on the board or a piece of paper. Let your students know that these are some of the most common questions people ask about God. If you noticed, the first three questions are very similar to the questions Habakkuk asked God. Let students attempt to give true answers. Record what they say. It will be helpful at the end of your lesson to come back and review the answers students gave. Hopefully you can use Habakkuk's own words to give God's answers to these questions.

 **If You Could Ask God One Question.** Hand out paper and pencil. Ask students to write down one question they would like to ask God, if given the opportunity to talk with Him face to face. Pray that God may provide some answers today in class. Those questions that you do not have solid biblical answers for can be reviewed next week so that you can find the answers.

 **OBJECT LESSON.** The object lesson is to illustrate that things are not always as they seem and that we look at life from a limited perspective.

Materials: A shoe box and long licorice. (Enough licorice for all your students).


Preparation: Cut three holes in the end of the shoe box just big enough for the licorice. Cut some of the licorice in two by cutting 1/3 off each piece. You now have some 1/3 length pieces and some 2/3 length pieces, and some whole length pieces. Put the licorice in the box. Just prior to lesson time, feed a piece of each length through the 3 holes; but make the shortest piece extend the farthest outside the box and the longest piece extend the least.

Lesson: Choose three student volunteers to come and take a piece of licorice. (Hold the box so the students can reach it. but not see inside the box.) Instruct the first student to take the longest piece, and the next student the longest of the two remaining pieces. The last student's piece will actually be the longest. Then allow all the students to come and take a piece as you 'feed' the licorice through the holes. Your perspective allows you to see the actual size of the pieces while the students can see only the part that extends through the hole. (Stand on a chair if you need to). As students choose, tell them which pieces are truly the long ones even though will not appear to be. If they have lived by faith (*Habakkuk 2:4*), they'll be rewarded!



Book:

Presentation Ideas -

 **MYSTERY WORD.** (Version one) Read a dictionary definition of faith (omitting the word 'faith') and read the Bible definition of faith found in Hebrews 11:1. "___ ___ ___ ___ is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Have the student stand as soon as they think they know the mystery word. (Version two) Play hangman using an overhead. Pattern sheet **3HAB18JR.GF2**.

Bible Adventure -

Habakkuk was a peculiar prophet. He worked in the temple. He loved and served God. He did his best to obey the commandments that Moses brought down from the mountain. But Habakkuk was getting upset. He knew very well God's laws and standards. He saw how the people of Judah were not obeying them. He looked all around and saw violence and hatred. People were constantly fighting with each other, and there was no justice. It seemed that evil was winning the war in Judah and that good people were surrounded by wickedness. Not only did these things bother Habakkuk, but there was something that was

bothering him more. It seemed to Habakkuk that God was doing nothing about the evil in the land. This bothered Habakkuk so much that he asked God, "Why do you tolerate wrong?" (Hab. 1:3) Habakkuk knew that God hates sin and for God do nothing about Judah's sin was beyond understanding. It seemed strange that God would allow the people to keep on sinning as if He did not notice them.

What was God's answer to Habakkuk? It was not quite what the prophet expected. God told him that He cared very much about what was going on, and that He had special plans to punish the sinful people of Judah. Habakkuk probably thought this sounded pretty good. But what God told him next was a big shock to him. God told Habakkuk that he was raising up the Babylonians and would allow them to invade Judah. God went on to describe the Babylonians, they were merciless, short-tempered, a people to be dreaded and feared. God described how they swept over the earth with great speed, conquering city after city, and bragging about their strength and might. They were so proud and arrogant about this that God said their strength had become their god. God pronounced them guilty for their arrogance. Can't you almost predict Habakkuk's response? "Wait a minute! God, I don't think I understand this. The Babylonians are cruel and wicked. The people of Judah would be like fish pulled in by a fisherman's hook or net. All the nations of the world are being pulled into that net, and the Babylonians just empty it and fill it again. Every time they conquer another nation they become more boastful and proud. God, I know you will not let them totally destroy us and I know you raised them up to punish us, but why are you using such a wicked nation? It's not fair! How can you be using evil people to train us?" Then Habakkuk set himself to watch and wait for God's answer.

God gave an answer, and He told Habakkuk to write it down so that many people could hear it and it could be kept as proof that what God says, will come to pass!


God told Habakkuk that the pride of Babylon would be her downfall. What they had done to other nations would be done to them, for God would not let their evil go unpunished, they would be judged. The Babylon's idols and false gods would be helpless to save them. Habakkuk said this about one of their idols, "Can it give guidance? It is covered with gold and silver, there is no breath in it." About God he said, "But the Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him." When God told Habakkuk He would judge the Babylonians, Habakkuk realized a very important truth--God is in control of all things, even when it may seem He is not. God wants each of us, to see that we can't live our lives based on what we see around us. God wants us to trust that He is at work in the world. He sees everything men do, and He is working out His perfect plan for all of us.


In Habakkuk 2:4 we find these words: "See, he (meaning Babylon) is puffed up; his desires are not upright--but the righteous will live by his faith." Those greedy, proud Babylonians couldn't see past the ends of their own noses. Their arrogance had caused them to forget about the one true God who was responsible for their very existence! Serious mistake. They were not seeing the total picture at all, but someone else was beginning to get it! Habakkuk's attitude about life was undergoing a radical overhaul! He'd gotten a fresh look at who God is, and it changed him. Chapter three of the book of Habakkuk is the prophet's prayer of praise for who God is. He writes that he stands in awe of God's deeds. He describes God as the Mighty Creator. Now that he had been shown God's plan for the nations and God's power in bringing it all about he was filled with reverence and fear of God. But beneath all that, there was a confidence in God that was not there before. Habakkuk still knew there were hard times coming for Judah, but now there was reason to be glad, too. He knew that God would keep him in His hands no matter what happened.


Who do you think you are most like: the *Babylonians*, who trusted in their own strength and forgot about God until it was too late? Or like *Habakkuk*, who learned that God can be trusted absolutely, no matter what you are going through? If we live our lives relying on ourselves, as if God does not exist, we will be self-centered, sinful people running after whatever looks good to us at the time. We will lie a little, cheat a little, cut corners to get what we want, in the end we will fail. The other choice is to live a life of faith, trusting in God's loving control over all things and in this there is great security. Things may be going wrong all around us, but we know God will keep our feet firmly planted. "The righteous will live by his faith." Trusting God in all things puts us in a right relationship with him. Are you learning to trust Him in everything? People who want to live righteously will do it because they believe in God. Being righteous means being good no matter what is going on around you. Because you have faith in God, you will obey him even if it does not look like that would be the easiest thing to do.



Look:


 **SECOND ANSWER.** The key to God's answers to Habakkuk is partially found in perspective. While Habakkuk was frustrated watching injustice going unpunished, God knew that eventually both Judah and Babylon would be punished. Use these two "Hidden Pictures" to illustrate the point. Remember, the net mentioned in Habakkuk represents Babylon's military power. It was Persia, as illustrated in the second picture, that would be God's tool for punishing Babylon. Discuss the 'Second Answer' picture and the picture of 'the Net.' First, show these pictures to the students with the paper folded. Ask if they can tell you what is happening. Discuss what the 'net' is and who the fish are (see Habakkuk 1:14-17 and 3:15). Then unfold the paper to reveal the whole picture. Discuss how different God's perspective can be from what we see. Have students color copies of 'the Net'. They can also add more stick figures on the 'Second Answer' picture. **3HAB18JR.GF3 & 3HAB18JR.GF4**


 **LIFE STYLES WORKSHEET.** Cut out Old Testament verses at the bottom of the worksheet and paste them in the proper order matching the New Testament verses. Use the worksheet as a discussion. **3HAB18JR.GF5**


 **HABAKKUK'S QUESTIONS.** As the students work on this sheet, use the worksheet as a discussion. **3HAB18JR.GF8**




Took:

 **WHYS TIME.** If you could ask God any question in the world what would it be? You have 5 minutes of WHY's time. When the 5 minutes is complete, ask the Bible students to share some of their answers. Strategize together to see if you can come up with any solutions. (Bible, Prayer, Revealed Over Time...) Our questions will be answered in God's time. (1 Corinthians 13:12) **3HAB18JR.GF7**

 **HIDDEN MESSAGE STAINED GLASS WINDOW.** (A coloring page) Prepare each page by writing "LIVE BY FAITH" in the glass area with white wax, a candle works great. The message will be invisible. After pages are handed out to the class, tell students that there is a secret message in the glass. Ask if they think they know what it is. Many will think they can see messages in the design. As they color, the message will appear in a way that they least expect. Discuss again how we have to live by faith because we have no ability to figure things out for ourselves. **3HAB18JR.GF6**

 **IN WHAT DO YOU TRUST.** Show familiar symbols to students such as: No Parking, No Smoking, No Dogs Allowed, Swimming, Restaurant, etc. Discuss the fact that even though we may not understand the language or cannot read we know from these symbols what we can or cannot do. Discuss what the slash through the circle means. Have the students slash through the symbols on **3HAB18JR.GF9** to show which things we should not put our trust in. Discuss how the Babylonians were a people who trusted in the wrong things. **3HAB18JR.GF9**

 **Jumpin 4 P's.** The four P's is a little ditty to help you remember the prophet, people, prophecy and principle of each book of the Old Testament that we are studying this year. You can jump rope to each little ditty if you can do that rhythm thing!

The Prophet is Habakkuk
The People are from Judah
The Prophecy - - - Habakkuk's questions answered
The Principle - - - Must trust God
Why? - - - To decide the right plan.
These are the 4 P's
Got 'em from Habakkuk
Now, it's time to jump out.



SPECIAL MUSIC. BE LIKE A TREE.

[Begin to teach this song to the younger Bible students as a class. Have fun with it and use lots of actions. 3rd-6th Graders, enjoy getting ready to teach the younger Bible students.]

Paul and Denise Smith copyright 1994 Integrity's Hosanna! Music/ASCAP

I've gotta be like a tree
Planted by the water
Trusting in the Father
To keep me strong
I've gotta be like a tree
Planted by the water
Trusting in the name
Of the Lord
I've gotta be like a tree
Planted by the water
Trusting in the Father
To help me grow
I've gotta be like a tree
Planted by the water
Trusting in the name
Of the Lord.


The deeper the roots go
The better the fruits grow
The Blessings bloom out

For all to see
The deeper the roots go
The more my life shows
That Jesus is the Lord of me.

(Repeat Chorus and verse)

I've gotta be like a tree
Planted by the water
Trusting in the Father
To keep me strong
I've gotta be like a tree
Planted by the water
Trusting in the name
Of the Lord
Trusting in the name
Of the Lord
Trusting in the name
Of the Lord
Trusting in the name
Of the Lord.

HABAKKUK




WHY'S
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HABAKKUK

HABAKKUK




WHY'S
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MYSTERY WORD

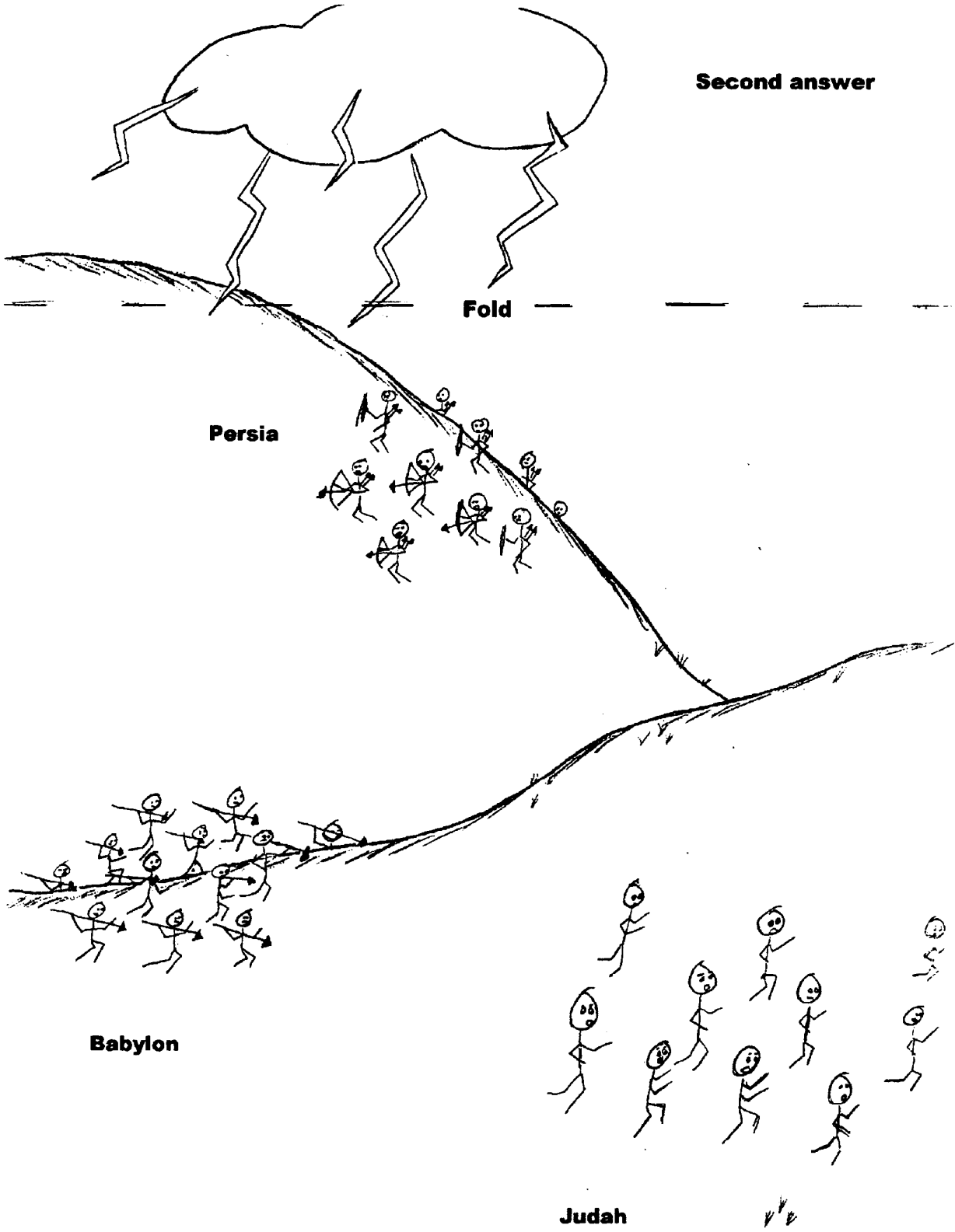


_____ IS BEING SURE OF WHAT
WE HOPE FOR AND CERTAIN OF WHAT WE DO
NOT SEE

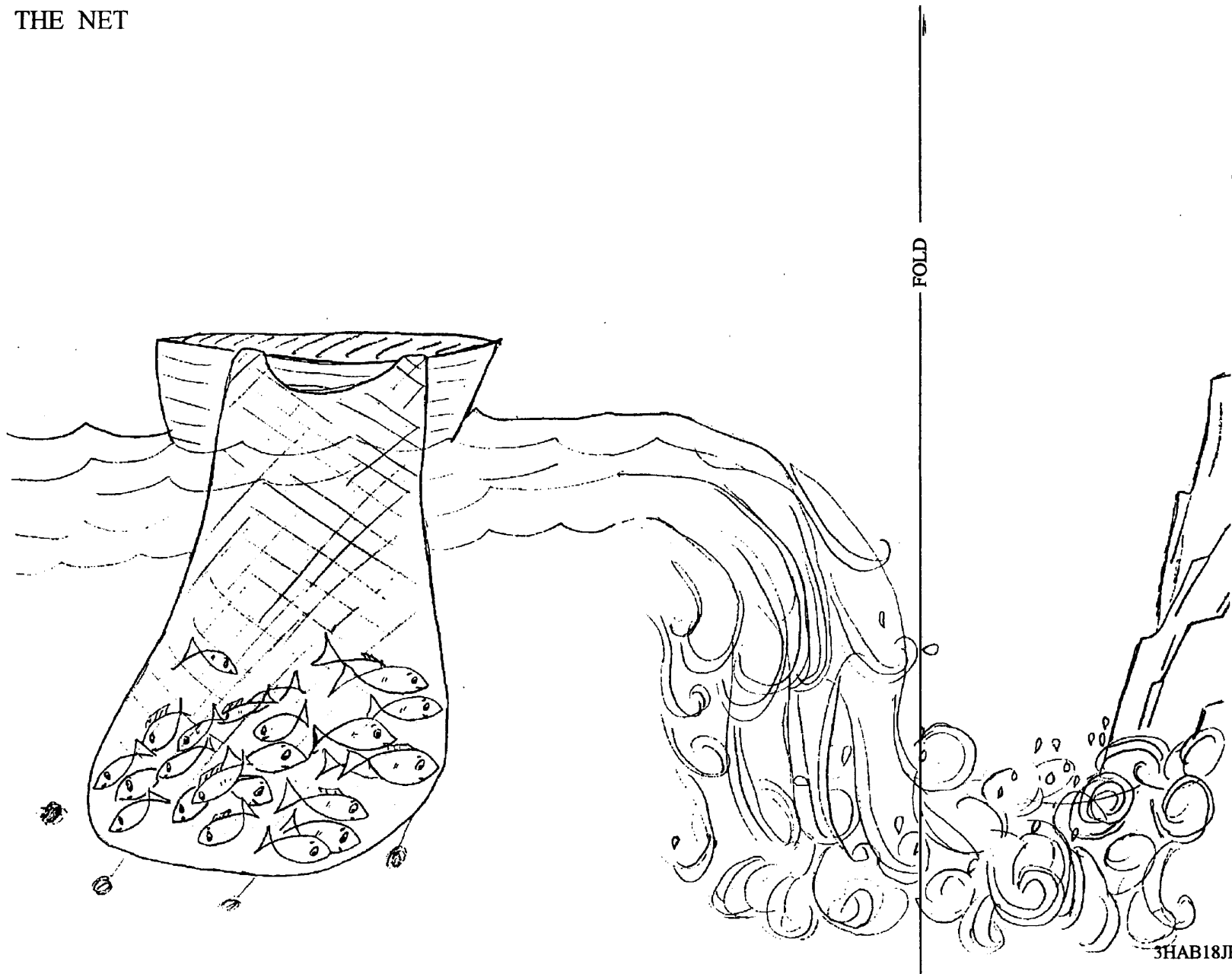
_____ 11:1

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

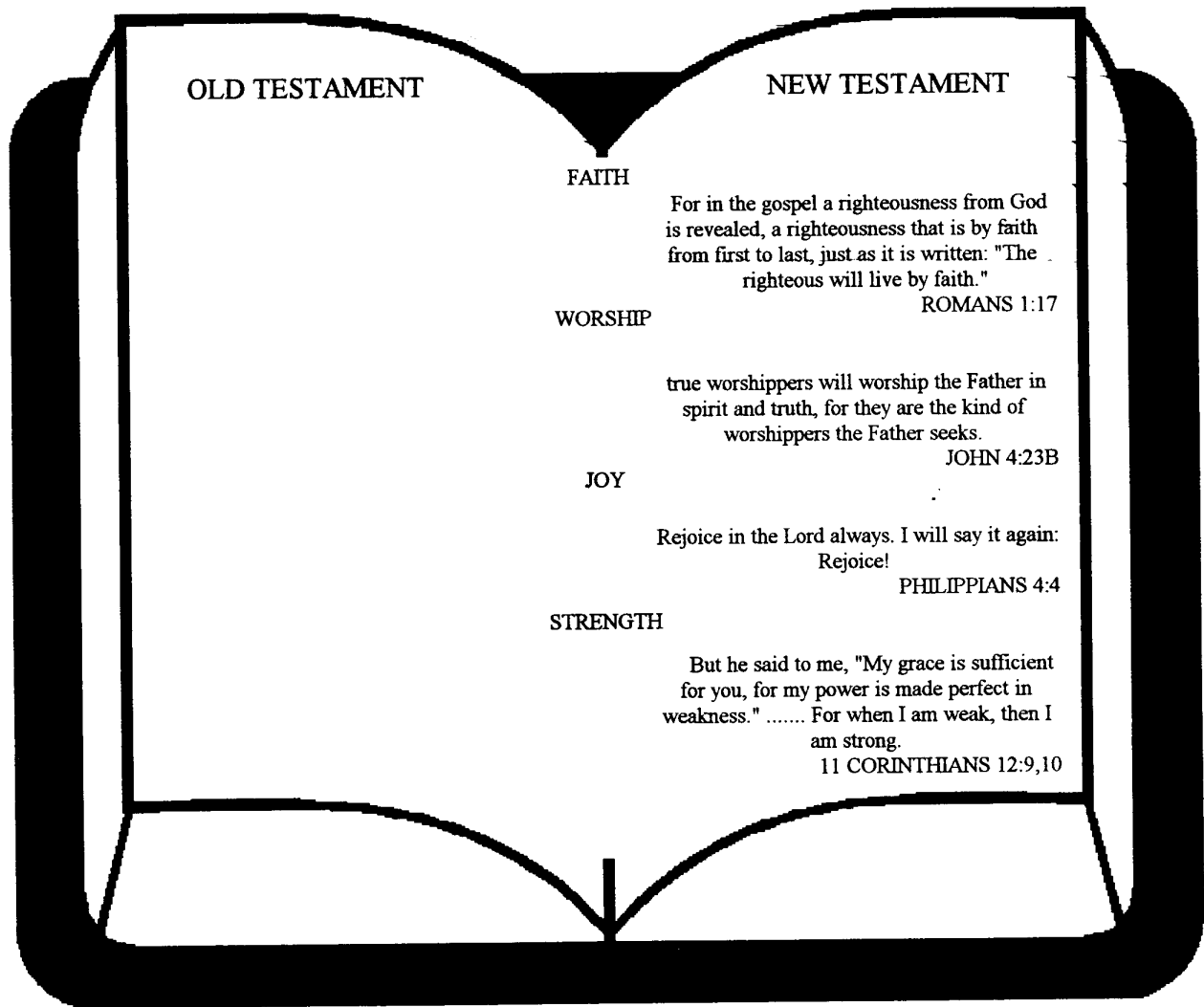
Second answer



THE NET



LIFESTYLES OF THE JUST AND RIGHTEOUS



OLD TESTAMENT

NEW TESTAMENT

FAITH

For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

ROMANS 1:17

WORSHIP

true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks.

JOHN 4:23B

JOY

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

PHILIPPIANS 4:4

STRENGTH

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." For when I am weak, then I am strong.

11 CORINTHIANS 12:9,10

The Sovereign LORD is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to go on the heights.

Habakkuk 3:20

yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Saviour.

Habakkuk 3:19

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

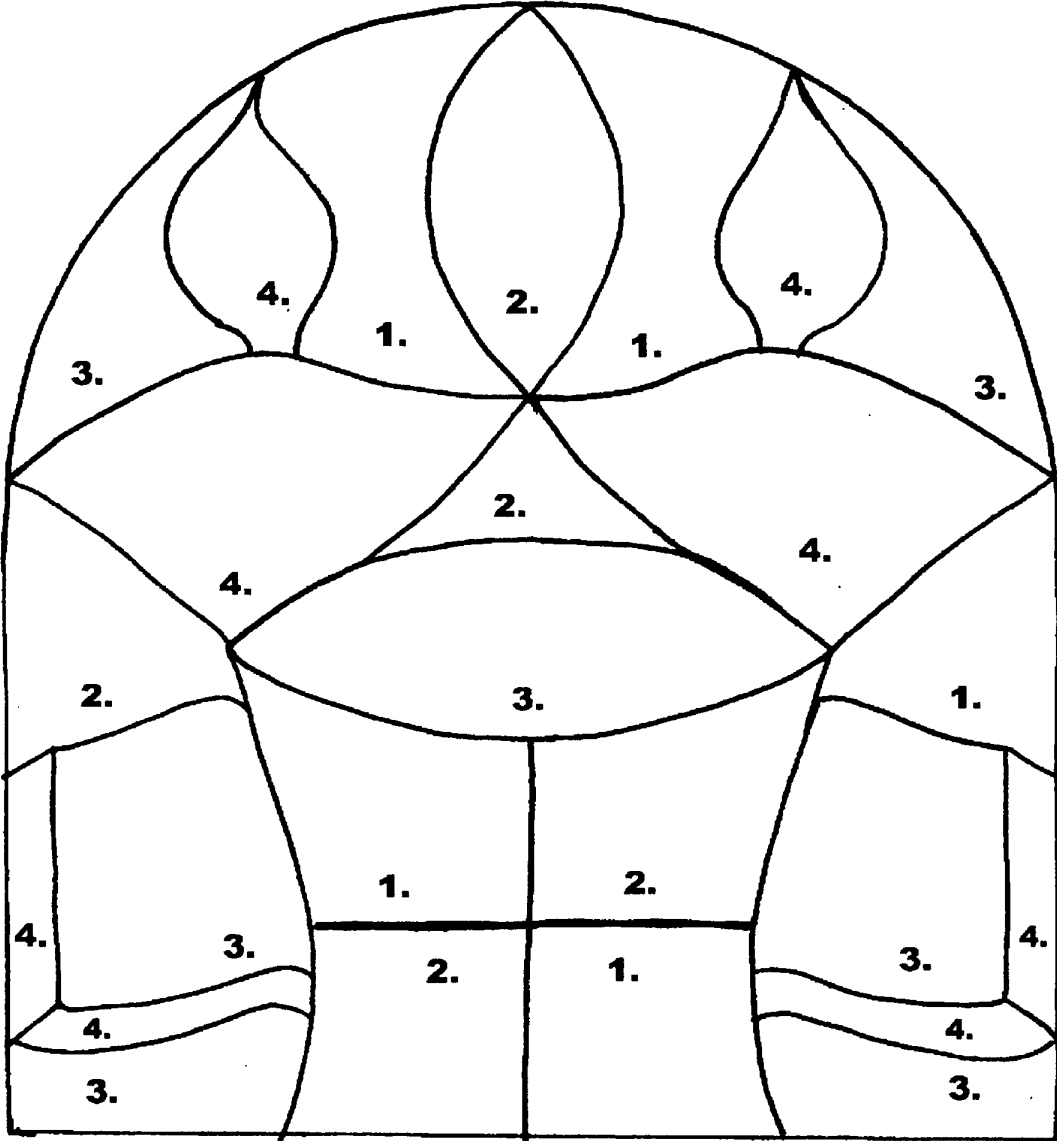
Habakkuk 2:20

—but the righteous will live by his faith—

Habakkuk 2:4b

Cut out the Old Testament Habakkuk verses and paste them next to the New Testament verses that tell us about the same things.

THE HIDDEN MESSAGE
STAINED GLASS WINDOW



Color each numbered space using the same color for each number to discover the secret message.



WHY'S TIME

What would you ask GOD ??

WRITE it in the bubble .

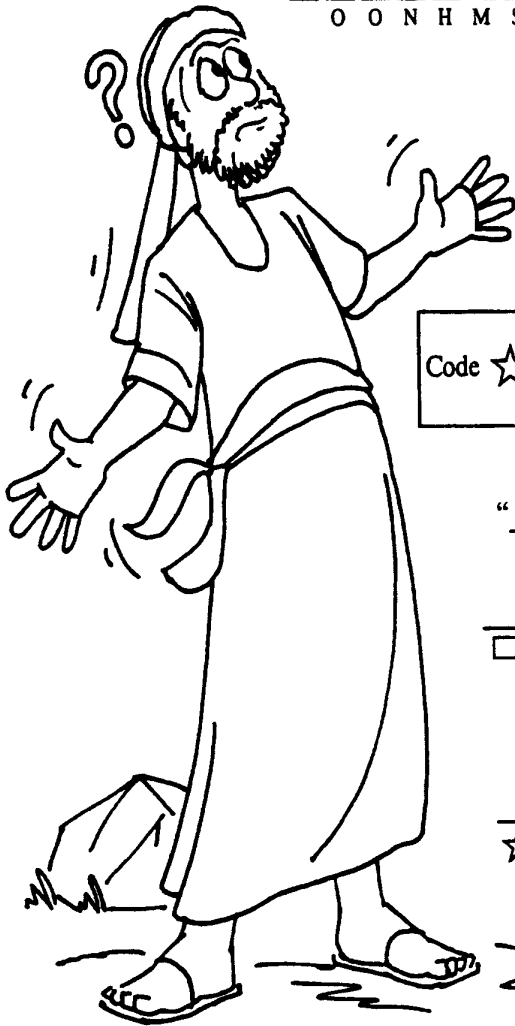
GOD, I have a question.

HABAKKUK'S QUESTIONS

Habakkuk couldn't understand why God was allowing such injustice in the world. He spoke to God. He asked questions. What did God answer?

Write the letter that comes after the one given.

S G D R H M M D Q R V N T K C A D
 O T M H R G D C S G D Q D V ^A R ^A M
^A O O N H M S D C S H L D E N Q S G H R
 S N G ^A O O D M



Find the end of God's answer to Habakkuk's question.

Code ☆=E □=H ◐=R △=L ▽=I ◇=O ○=T

“^d ^s ⁿ
 ○ □ ☆ △ ◇ ◐ ▽
^s ^y ^{mp}
 □ ▽ □ ◇ △ ○ ☆ △ ☆
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^a ^b ^s ⁿ
 ☆ ◐ ○ □ ☆ ▽ △ ☆ ○
^b ^f ^m
 ☆ ◇ ◐ ☆ □ ▽

IN WHAT DO YOU TRUST

PUT A SLASH THROUGH THE SYMBOLS TO SHOW WHICH THING WE SHOULD NOT PUT OUR TRUST IN

