Lesson—Waiting and Trusting

I. Aim for Change/Learning Objectives
By the end of this lesson, we will…
1. Critique the historical circumstances that resulted in the prophet’s question and the Lord's response.
2. Appreciate the benefits of waiting on God's time.
3. Identify barriers to their patients when God's response to prayer is not immediate.

Why This Lesson Matters: God's message through Habakkuk encourages us to wait in faith and trust God's timing.

Key Verse—(Habakkuk 2:1-5) the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; Because it will surely come, it will not tarry. (KJV)

Song of Praise and Worship: “I will trust in the Lord” African American Heritage Hymnal #391

II. Points to be Emphasized
a. Having put his complaint before God Habakkuk proceeded to demonstrate a crucial aspect of faith: waiting.

b. The odd reference to running in Habakkuk creates a vivid image of a messenger, running and reading at the same time (either to announce the message in the villages while running or to read the message from posted tablets while running).

c. God's answer to Habakkuk did not address the urging that God do something about what is wrong in the world as much as it addressed the real question of can I trust you to make things right to keep your promises to take care of your faithful people.

d. God's response promised justice for the faithful and for the wicked, whether in Judah or in Babylon: in the historical context, God promises that those who are righteous, who live in the right relationship with God, will live because of their faithfulness to God.

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1 Outline Content courtesy of the Sunday School Publishing Board Teacher Manual, which should be purchased at www.ssphbhc.com
III. Historical/Biblical Background and Lesson Context
The book of Habakkuk is named for its principal character Habakkuk is noted by scholars as a priest and a prophet with a challenging assignment from the Lord. He was the contemporary of Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Nahum, and Zephaniah. The prophet Habakkuk found himself in a precarious position as he waited for God to respond to his complaint that he had not judged the wicked and intended to use a more wicked nation to discipline Judah. God intended to act but he is going to use the Babylonians as his instrument of justice to punish the rebellious nation of Judah.

IV. Prominent Character(s) in the Lesson
Habakkuk: a 7th century Hebrew prophet, Habakkuk was a prophet who penned the biblical book called by his name. His book is among the minor prophets and is unique in the including of a doxology. Very little is known about Habakkuk and his life except for what is mentioned in his short book.

V. Key Terms in the Lesson (KJV)
   a. See (v.1) — Hebrew: raah (raw-aw’) to perceive; Become aware; Consider.
   b. Tablets (v.2) — Hebrew: luach (loo’-akh): to “linger” (NIV)
   c. Tarry (v.3) — Hebrew: mahah (maw-hah’): to linger (NIV), delay hesitate, wait.
   d. Vision (v.2) — Hebrew: chazon (khaw-zone’) divine communication in a vision; oracle; prophecy; “revelation”(NIV)

VI. Topical Outline of the Lesson
   1. Introduction
   2. Faith Waits Expectantly (Habakkuk 2:1-3)
   3. Faith Trusts Triumphanty (vv. 4-5)

Food for thought and question for consideration: (What have we learned Charlie Brown?)
Waiting on the Lord is always a means by which we can see the fulfillment of His vision.