Big Idea: We can always look on the bright side when God is on our side.
Key Question: How does God help us to be positive?
Memory Verse: Look at the proud! They trust in themselves, and their lives are crooked. But the righteous will live by their faithfulness to God. Habakkuk 2:4

Overview: We’re finishing our series today on the book of Habakkuk. We’ve learned that Habakkuk means to “wrestle” and that he was a prophet of God. We’ve learned that Habakkuk was frustrated with his friends for doing naughty things and he was mad at God for letting them get away with it. But, God told Habakkuk to relax. We’ve also learned that Habakkuk complained a lot that life wasn’t fair. He hated that his friends didn’t seem to get into trouble for being naughty. But, again, God told Habakkuk not to waste his energy on worrying about what was fair or unfair. He just needed to trust God and let him take care of things. Last week, we talked about what we should do with bullies and mean people. In Habakkuk’s day, people did awful things to each other and people still do awful things today. God told Habakkuk that the bullies don’t win in the end. God wins. Some day, Jesus is going to return to bring all who have trusted in him to heaven. Today, we’re going to finish the series talking about how we should look at our problems. Habakkuk learned to trust God no matter what. Once he figured that out, he stopped complaining and was happy. He changed his attitude by focusing on the good stuff and stopped focusing on the bad stuff. We need to learn this too. If we follow God, we don’t need to worry or complain. We can be happy and positive knowing that God has it all figured out.

CLASSROOM AGENDA

5 min PLAY: Begin working on Activity Page #1.

5 min WARM UP: How do your friends respond when they beat you playing a game? How do you respond when you win or lose?

5 min PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea and Memory Verse and Key Question on a whiteboard. Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1. (if applicable)

20 min LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids. Then return to small group to finish this guide.

5 min Recap: Read the Lesson Overview from the Teacher’s Guide to the class and then answer the KEY QUESTION.

5 min EXPLORE: Read Philippians 4:8. What should our thoughts be like? What is likely to happen if we focus only on the negative, yucky thoughts?

10 min PLAY: Do the group activity from Activity Page #2.

5 min CLOSE: What have you learned from Habakkuk? Share prayer requests and pray as a class.

TEACHER TIPS

Don’t forget that you set the tone for your kids. Smile. Have fun. Pursue God together.

Allow each kid to share. Some people are sore losers and say, “That wasn’t fair!” or “You cheated. I’m leaving.” Others are happy for people when they win. Which one are you? God doesn’t want us to be negative, sore losers.

Answer: He’s given us a chance at a new life through Jesus. Here’s the best reason to have a good attitude no matter what problem we face—JESUS! He came to die for OUR sins to fix our relationship with God so that we can live in heaven with him some day. AND, when we trust Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives in our hearts and helps us to live for God. So, when we face problems in life that seem hard or unfair, we need to remember that we have Jesus on our side.

Bonus Questions: What did Jesus do for us? How does he help us to live a different way?

4-5th: What does it look like to live a life that honors God?

We should only think about things that are true, honorable, right, pure, and lovely. When we think this way, we will honor God. But, if we think about yucky things then we will want to do yucky things. The reason our thoughts influence our actions. What we think is what we will do.

Allow kids to share. Encourage them to be specific.
### Option #1

**Are You a Pessimist or an Optimist game**
- As a class, define pessimist and optimist.
  - Pessimist-focusses on the negative
  - Optimist-focusses on the positive
- Then, read one of the scenarios (page 5) to the class. Have them decide if it sounds more like a pessimist or an optimist.
- Continue until you’ve read them all.
- If you have time, see if the kids can come up with some other examples for what a pessimist and optimist might say.

### Supplies needed
- Scenarios template (pg. 5) 1 per class

### Bonus Activity:
- **Play Find the book in the Bible.**

Have kids get into pairs. Give each pair a Bible. Have kids race to find the books below. First to find has to say if it’s in the OT or NT.

**Books:** Habakkuk, Titus, Romans

### Option #2

**Look on the Bright Side Smiley Face**
- Give each kid a yellow paper plate.
- Give each kid two eyeballs.
- Instruct kids to glue the eyeballs at the top of the plate.
- Allow kids to draw a smiling mouth, nose, eyebrows, etc.
- Then have kids glue the phrase template (page 6) at the bottom of the plate.
- Remind the kids that with God on their side, they can always look on the bright side!

### Supplies needed
- Yellow paper plates (1 per kid)
- Craft eyeballs (1 set per kid)
- Phrase template (pg 6), pre cut, 1 per kid
- Black markers or black construction paper

### Bonus Activity:
- **Play Bible Hangman.**

Words or phrases: optimist, Habakkuk, Jesus loves you

More @ pursueGOD.org/kids
LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE
LESSON #4

1. Discover Truth

Watch this week’s lesson video as a family (see link above) and fill in the blanks.

1. There are ____________ ways to look at every ________________________.
2. How do ______________ look at your problems?
3. We can always look on the _____________ side when ________________ is on our side.

2. Talk about it

Answer these questions together as a family.

1. How do your friends respond when they beat you playing a game? How do you respond when you win or lose?
2. In your own words, define what it means to be a pessimist? What does it mean to be an optimist?
3. Why is it better to be an optimist?
4. How does having a relationship with Jesus change the way we view our problems?
5. Read Philippians 4:8. What should our thoughts be like? What is likely to happen if we focus only on the negative, yucky thoughts?

3. Live it out

Memorize this week’s Bible verse: “Look at the proud! They trust in themselves, and their lives are crooked. But the righteous will live by their faithfulness to God.” Habakkuk 2:4

Bonus: Read these additional passages as a family this week

- Read Colossians 3:2. What do you think it means to have thoughts from heaven verses from earth?
- Read Psalm 118:24. What should we do every day?
- Read Philippians 3:13-14. What should we forget? Where should we focus our attention?

Parent Signature ____________________________

Learn the 3 basic truths of the Christian faith in the Foundations for Kids series.
### BIG IDEA
We can always look on the bright side when God is on our side

### KEY QUESTION
How does God help us to be positive?

### MEMORY VERSE
"Look at the proud! They trust in themselves, and their lives are crooked. But the righteous will live by their faithfulness to God."

**Habakkuk 2:4**

Color the picture

---

**LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE**
I forgot my lunch at home and now I'm going to starve to death.

I lost my favorite necklace. I hope whoever finds it loves it like I do.

I lost my soccer game today. The other team played better than we did.

My friends left me out at recess today so I guess nobody likes me.

My parents keep yelling at me and not my brother. I guess they like him more.

I got a D on my math test. I know if I study more I can improve my grade.

“I hate my life!”

Even though I hate chores, I like helping my parents around the house.

I didn’t get an “A” on my English test so I must be stupid.

My friend has a cool video game I really want. I’m going to do some extra chores to earn money to buy it.
WE CAN ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE WHEN GOD IS ON OUR SIDE
WE CAN ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE WHEN GOD IS ON OUR SIDE
WE CAN ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE WHEN GOD IS ON OUR SIDE
WE CAN ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE WHEN GOD IS ON OUR SIDE
WE CAN ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE WHEN GOD IS ON OUR SIDE
WE CAN ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE WHEN GOD IS ON OUR SIDE
WE CAN ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE WHEN GOD IS ON OUR SIDE
WE CAN ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE WHEN GOD IS ON OUR SIDE
WE CAN ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE WHEN GOD IS ON OUR SIDE
WE CAN ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE WHEN GOD IS ON OUR SIDE
WE CAN ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE WHEN GOD IS ON OUR SIDE
WE CAN ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE WHEN GOD IS ON OUR SIDE
WE CAN ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE WHEN GOD IS ON OUR SIDE
WE CAN ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE WHEN GOD IS ON OUR SIDE
WE CAN ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE WHEN GOD IS ON OUR SIDE
WE CAN ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE WHEN GOD IS ON OUR SIDE
WE CAN ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE WHEN GOD IS ON OUR SIDE
WE CAN ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE WHEN GOD IS ON OUR SIDE
WE CAN ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE WHEN GOD IS ON OUR SIDE
WE CAN ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE WHEN GOD IS ON OUR SIDE

https://www.pinterest.com/pin/331999803754176744/