GENESIS TO REVELATION | POETRY AND PRAYER

Hope When the Fields Are Empty

Habakkuk 3:17-19



YOUR BIBLE READING

Hope can name hardship honestly and depend on God for strength.

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

Naming the Empty Places

Habakkuk 3:17-19



The ending of Habakkuk is a prayer shaped as poetry. In these verses, the prophet names a frightening possibility: the sources of food and livelihood could fail. He begins with a fig tree that does not blossom and vines that carry no fruit. The language asks us to picture absence where people hoped to see growth. This is not a cheerful list of things he has decided he never needed. It takes the possibility of loss seriously.

Next come olive trees whose labor brings no yield and fields that provide nothing to eat. Olive oil and grain belonged to the daily life of the people. When crops failed, a household's needs did not disappear. The prayer names those needs without pretending that a faithful person is above hunger. The empty fields help us hear the weight of the words. A harvest was not simply decoration; it was connected with nourishment and survival.

The poem turns from crops to animals. The fold has no flock, and the stalls have no cattle. Again, an expected source of provision is absent. The list reaches across several parts of life, making the possible shortage feel wide rather than limited to one disappointing plant. Habakkuk is speaking of a situation in which ordinary supports seem to fall away together. His words make room for a truthful account of how hard life could become.

These images form the setting for the prayer's turn toward hope. The prophet does not first announce that every tree has recovered or that animals have filled the stalls again. His next words concern where he places his joy and strength while facing the possibility just described. Poetry can hold that tension: empty fields on one side, a faithful declaration on the other. The question is how hope can remain when visible provision offers little reassurance.

Remember: I can name what is hard and seek strength for the next step.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

Strength for the Next Footstep

Habakkuk 3:17-19



Habakkuk declares that he will rejoice in the Lord and find joy in the God of his salvation. This is a chosen direction within the prayer, not a report that suffering has become pleasant. His trust is centered on God rather than on the success of the harvest. The earlier list remains part of what he has said. Hope does not erase the empty tree, field, fold, or stall from the poem's picture.

The prophet then names God as his strength. Strength here is not measured by how many supplies he can display. He speaks of receiving the ability to continue because of the God in whom he trusts. That gives the prayer a source beyond his own determination. The words are not a demand that a hungry person smile convincingly enough to fix the shortage. They express dependence, turning toward the one he calls the God of his salvation.

A final picture brings the prayer into movement. God makes his feet like those of a deer and enables him to walk in high places. A deer can move with sure steps where the ground is uneven. In the poem, that ability becomes a picture of strength for difficult going. Habakkuk is not claiming to grow hooves or giving children an instruction to climb dangerous slopes. The image concerns a steadier way forward amid trouble.

The chapter closes with a musical direction for stringed instruments. These are words for prayer and song, carrying loss and trust together. For readers today, the movement can be meaningful without becoming a promise of immediate improvement. We can name what is hard, turn toward God, and seek strength for a next step. The poem's hope is not that a person can control every outcome. It is that the hardest picture of need need not be the only word spoken.

Pause and think: What could one supported, steady step look like when something important in life feels uncertain?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Hope with Room for Help



When something you depend on changes, begin by telling the truth about it. A family may be facing a shortage, a move, an illness, or another loss. You do not need to pretend that it is easy. Habakkuk's list shows how prayer can name empty places plainly. A trusted adult can listen and help you understand what support and practical steps are available in your situation.

Joy in this prayer does not mean that sadness is forbidden. People can trust God while crying, asking questions, and needing comfort. No child is responsible for supplying a cheerful mood to make a family's problem disappear. The poem gives language for hope, not a test that proves who has enough faith. Letting others care for you can belong beside prayer and patient trust.

The deer's feet offer a picture of a next step. Perhaps today's step is telling someone you are worried, eating a meal provided through help, or accepting a manageable task. These are examples for us, not hidden events in Habakkuk's life. A steady step is valuable even when it does not carry you all the way out of difficulty.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

Habakkuk's prayer names real need while looking to God for hope and strength to continue.

What could one supported, steady step look like when something important in life feels uncertain?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. What kinds of need does the poem name?

2. What do the deer's feet picture?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ Picture steadier steps through difficult ground.
- ☐ Turn toward God as the source of salvation and strength.
- ☐ Name the possibility of empty fields and stalls.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw a deer on a safe path with a small sign naming one hopeful next step.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

I can name what is hard and seek strength for the next step.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: Habakkuk 3:17-19

A thoughtful conversation

Read these verses as poetic prayer, not a statement that every listed loss occurred as a narrated event. The deer's feet are an image of strength. Allow grief beside hope. Children facing hunger, illness, or family stress need practical adult support, not pressure to display cheerful feelings or produce a particular outcome.

Activity answers

1. Failed crops and missing livestock, pictures of lost food and livelihood.
2. Strength and steadiness for moving through a difficult way.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 3, 2, 1. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

God, hear our worries and give us strength with the help we need today. Amen.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on Habakkuk 3:17-19. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration: original symbolic vector artwork by DigiPick.store; a learning aid, not an additional Bible event.
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