



Week 1

LifeGroup Questions

*God, how long do I have to cry out for help before you listen? How many times do I have to yell, "Help! Murder! Police!" before you come to the rescue? Why do you force me to look at evil, stare trouble in the face day after day? Anarchy and violence break out, quarrels and fights all over the place. Law and order fall to pieces. Justice is a joke. The wicked have the righteous hamstrung and stand justice on its head. **Hab 1:2-4 (Message)***

**Objective:** To trust God with our frustrations, while also trusting His timing and His purposes.

- [Suggested Time 3 min.] How would you describe Habakkuk's mood in this passage? What seems to be his driving passion here?
- [Suggested Time 5 min.] Describe a time when you've had similar feelings. In those moments, did you have this kind of frank and raw conversation with God? Why or why not?

**Pause and read God's response to Habakkuk's questions:**

*I am raising up the Babylonians to be a new power on the world scene. They are a cruel and violent nation who will march across the world and conquer it.. **Hab 1:6 (NLT)***

**Pause and read Habakkuk's reaction:**

*God, you chose Babylonians for your judgment work? ...You gave them the job of discipline? But you can't be serious! You can't condone evil! So why don't you do something about this? Why are you silent now? **Hab 1:12-13 (Message)***

- [Suggested Time 3 min.] Why do you think Habakkuk felt so shocked by God's response?
- [Suggested Time 3 min.] When and where do you see injustices like these today?
- [Suggested Time 5 min.] Describe a time when you felt a sense of "injustice" similar to Habakkuk's.

**Pause and read Habakkuk's next words:**

*I'll wait to see what God says, how he'll answer my complaint. **Hab 2:1 (NLT)***

- [Suggested Time 3 min.] How hard do you think it must have been for Habakkuk to wait on God's timing?
- [Suggested Time 5 min.] In your past experience, how has waiting on God's timing affected your attitudes toward God and the circumstances?
- [Suggested Time 5 min.] Is there some area of your life where you are struggling to wait on God's timing, frustrated by His answers or confused by apparent injustice?
- [Suggested Time 5 min.] Now take the next few minutes to have an honest personal conversation with God about your struggles, remember...God has broad shoulders and a loving spirit. He is interested in what you have to say! (Pray silently for a few minutes, then pray together as a group)

### For Further Study

**Habakkuk 1:** If you could talk with one prominent person, whom would you choose and what would you discuss? What did Habakkuk receive? (1:1) About what was the prophet distressed? (1:2-4) How did God answer Habakkuk's complaint? (1:5-11) Why was the prophet perplexed and bewildered? (1:12-17)

When people suffer because of violence and injustice, how do you feel? God used the ungodly Babylonians to punish Israel. How does God speak to Christians through the actions of pagans nowadays? When have you been perplexed about why God allowed something to happen?

When can you take time this week to be open and honest with the Lord about some of your deepest concerns or frustrations?



Week 2

LifeGroup Questions

**Objective:** To see God's goodness in the past, leave behind any idols we may be putting our faith in and trust God's goodness even when circumstances seem hopeless.

When Habakkuk questioned God about evil and injustice this was God's response:

*Look at the proud! They trust in themselves, and their lives are crooked; but the righteous will live by their faith. Hab 2:4 (NLT)*

- What did it mean for Habakkuk and his people to "live by faith?"
- Describe a time in your life when the circumstances seemed hopeless but you "lived by faith."
- How did you see God's goodness revealed through these circumstances?
- How did it affect your relationship with God? Your relationship with others?

God went on to say:

*What have you gained by worshiping all your man-made idols? How foolish to trust in something made by your own hands! What fools you are to believe such lies! How terrible it will be for you who beg lifeless wooden idols to save you. You ask speechless stone images to tell you what to do. Can an idol speak for God? They may be overlaid with gold and silver, but they are lifeless inside. But the LORD is in his holy Temple. Let all the earth be silent before him."*

**Hab 2:18-20 (NLT)**

**idol:** an image or other material object representing a deity other than God; a false conception or notion; fallacy.

- Many Jews were trusting idols to rescue them. What kind of "idols" do many people look to for their rescue today?
- Describe areas in your life where you are tempted to trust in "idols" rather than God?
- How will you "live by faith" in those areas of your life? How can your group help you?

Pray together in your own words and ask God for the following:

- Eyes to see His goodness in every area of your life
- Wisdom to identify and reject any "idols" you may be putting your trust in today
- Strength to "live by faith" and trust Him even when things look hopeless.

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### For Further Study

**Deuteronomy 16:21-17:20** What was Israel commanded not to set up? (16:21-22) What kind of sacrifice is detestable to the Lord? (17:1) What was to be done if someone was suspected of worshiping other gods? (17:2-4) How was the punishment for idol worship to be handled? (17:5) What implications do these verses have for our attitude toward justice and fairness?

**1 Corinthians 10:1-13** Why did Paul refer to Israel's history? (10:1) How do the Israelites serve as examples to us? (10:1-6) Why did God record the experiences of the Israelites? (10:6, 11) Why is it important that all the temptations Christians face are common to everyone? (10:13) How is God faithful? (10:13) What have you learned about God from this history of Israel? What have you learned about yourself from this history of Israel?



Week 3

LifeGroup Questions

**Objective:** Asking God to replace the hopelessness in our lives with the joy that comes from a relationship with Him.

*"I have heard all about you, LORD, and I am filled with awe by the amazing things you have done. Hab 3:1-2 (NLT)*

- What kind of relationship do you think Habakkuk had with God? Do you think this gave him hope for the future? Why or why not?
- Describe a time when God gave you hope through something amazing He did in the life of another person.

Looking at the physical world around him, Habakkuk said:

*"His brilliant splendor fills the heavens, and the earth is filled with his praise! What a wonderful God he is!" Hab 3:3 (NLT)*

**Awe (n.):** A mixed emotion of reverence, respect, and wonder inspired by authority, great beauty, or might.

- Describe a time when, like Habakkuk, you were "awed" by God's creation.
- Do you feel like your relationship with God changed through this experience? If so, how?

In the face of an apparently hopeless situation, Habakkuk still had this to say about God:

*"...yet I will rejoice in the LORD! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation. The Sovereign LORD is my strength! He will make me as surefooted as a deer and bring me safely over the mountains." Hab 3:18-19 (NLT)*

- Has there been a time in your life when God gave you joy even though your circumstances appeared hopeless?
- Habakkuk moved from hopelessness to joy over the 3 chapters of this book. In what areas of your life would you like God to take you from hopelessness to joy?
- In your own words, pray the following:
  - Thank God for the amazing things you've seen Him do and heard about from others
  - Tell Him about your "awe" of Him
  - Ask Him bring the joy of your relationship with Him to the places in your life that seem hopeless

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### For Further Study

#### **Ecclesiastes 5:1-20:**

What best helps you worship God? How should a person go to the house of God? (5:1) How did Solomon encourage us to conduct ourselves in the house of God? (5:2-3) Why should we stand in awe of God? (5:7) Why is it important to approach God with the right attitude? What does it mean to stand in awe of God?

#### **1 Chronicles 16:7-43:**

When was the last time you felt overwhelmed with thankfulness or gratitude? According to David, why should we give thanks to the Lord? (16:8) What should people tell others about God? (16:9) What attitude should a person have toward God? (16:10-12) What had God done for Israel? (16:15-22) How did David express his thanks to God? How should we express our thanks and appreciation to God? For what specific reasons should we praise the Lord? How can praising the Lord change our attitude and outlook on life? What are some of the reasons you have to be thankful to God?