



Series Overview and Guides

2020-2021 ANNUAL THEME | SERIES 5

APRIL - MAY

Objective

what we hope to see God accomplish in us through this study

That in times of struggle we engage with God and are drawn to marvel at His greatness.

STATEMENTS OF THE OBJECTIVE

"The righteous will live by his faith."

—Habakkuk 2:4 (NIV)

Though the fig tree should not blossom,
And there be no fruit on the vines,
Though the yield of the olive should fail,
And the fields produce no food,
Though the flock should be cut off from
the fold,
And there be no cattle in the stalls,
Yet I will exult in the LORD,
I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.
The Lord GOD is my strength,
And He has made my feet like hinds' feet,
And makes me walk on my high places.

—Habakkuk 3:17-19 (NASB)

"Habakkuk's why questions are answered with a resounding Who! God is affirmed as the God who alone is completely good. His plans are rich, deep, and resonant, allowing righteousness and life to be found through trusting Him alone. Habakkuk is thus the fascinating, painful, and ultimately triumphant bridge between Abraham and Paul."

Premise

why we are studying this

The Christian today needs to develop trust in the Lord even as darkness seems to envelop our days personally and corporately. Habakkuk dealt wisely with the evil of his time, dialoguing with God and finding himself changed through God's Word. We must do the same.

STATEMENTS OF THE PREMISE

I will stand on my guard post
And station myself on the rampart;
And I will keep watch to see what He will
speak to me,
And how I may reply when I am reproved.

—Habakkuk 2:1 (NASB)

"Godly men and women continue to ask similar 'why's in a world of increasing international crises and internal corruption. While the stage is set for a global holocaust...the nation's moral fiber is being eaten away by a philosophy that makes personal pleasure the supreme rule of life. Hedonism catches fire while homes crumble. Crime soars while the church sours. Drugs, divorce, and debauchery prevail, and decency dies. Frivolity dances in the streets. Faith is buried. 'In God We Trust' has become a meaningless slogan stamped on coins. In such a world of crisis and chaos, Habakkuk speaks with clarity. This little book is as contemporary as the morning newspaper."

—Ron Blue
Habakkuk, (BKC 1507)

Theme

what the study is about

Habakkuk teaches us how to engage with the Lord when our circumstances are painful and wicked. When God's covenant child really looks at all the filth of this life, he or she is confronted with a genuine problem. Habakkuk teaches us to look more deeply still – where we find the answers to those problems.

STATEMENTS OF THE THEME

"Look among the nations! Observe!
Be astonished! Wonder!
Because I am doing something in your
days —
You would not believe if you were told."

—Habakkuk 1:5 (NASB)

"Knowledge of God creates problems...If there is no God in heaven, then we have no problem about sin and suffering; no problem about the slum and the tenement house and the oppression of the poor and all the prosperity of the rich and sinful. But the moment you admit the existence of an all-powerful governing God, you are face-to-face with your problems. If you say (this causes) you none, I question the strength of your faith! Knowledge of God creates problems; fuller knowledge of God answers them every one. That seems to me to be the great lesson of Habakkuk."

—G. Campbell Morgan
The Minor Prophets



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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SERIES 5 | SESSION 1

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2020-2021

WONDER

SCRIPTURE READING

Habakkuk 1:1-11

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Habakkuk's oracle is actually a big burden. We feel that same burden when our knowledge of God collides with the pain we feel in life's "unintentional" disciplines. Darkness, delay, difficulty, disappointment, disease, or disillusionment threaten to defeat us and sometimes force us to wrestle with God (see G. Campbell Morgan quote on page 1.) In such a situation, we can do no better than to walk the same trail as that taken by God's prophet.

OBJECTIVE

We dialogue honestly with God.

DISCIPLINES

"These disciplines let us see ourselves as we really are – little, frail, and dependent. They cure us of thinking that our strength is our god by shattering our independence."

—Fran Legband
Member of the FBC Pulpit Team

UNEXPECTED ANSWERS

"God may seem to be strangely silent and inactive in provocative circumstances. He sometimes gives unexpected answers to our prayers."

—D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones
From *Fear to Faith*

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we engage honestly with our Father.

Session 1: Why Questions

1. Think of a time when you had an important "why" question for God. What was it about? Did you talk and pray honestly to God about it?
2. What comes to your mind when you think of the unintentional discipline of dark times?
 - a. Why is trusting God important in times of darkness?
 - b. Which Scripture helps you to trust God in such times?
3. Read Habakkuk 1:1-4.
 - a. In verse 2, what did Habakkuk see that concerned him? What was his complaint?
 - b. What were Habakkuk's laments in verses 3-4?
 - c. How are these complaints relevant today?
4. Summarize God's response in Habakkuk 1:5.
 - a. What should we do when we can't see what God is doing, or when we don't understand why He is doing it?
 - b. What is God's promise in this verse?
5. Read Habakkuk 1:6-10. What was God planning to do, and why would that be astounding to Habakkuk?
6. Read Habakkuk 1:11. What are some ways we rely on our own "strength" instead of on God?



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SERIES 4 | SESSION 2

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2020-2021

WONDER

SCRIPTURE READING

Habakkuk 1:12-2:4; Hebrews 12:3-12;
1 Peter 5:6-11; Romans 1:16-17;
1 Corinthians 10:11-13

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Habakkuk asks three great “How could you?” questions. Then, Habakkuk makes the most remarkable move a person can make – he stations himself to listen to God’s Word on the issues. God answers Habakkuk with three incredible truths that give perspective to the prophet’s difficult situation. This has huge implications for the New Testament Christian.

OBJECTIVE

We live by trusting our Father.

GOD IS AT WORK

“God told the prophet that he was at work. Herein lies an amazing fact, especially for modern people. God is at work. In a world that only considers that humans are at work, God works.

Alongside the ‘men at work’ signs that dot our lives stands another, more important sign: ‘God at work.’”

—C.G. Chappelle
Meet These Men

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we fully trust God in the midst of uncertainty.

Session 2: How Questions

1. Review Habakkuk 1:5 and discuss together:
 - a. Do you believe that God is sovereignly at work in the nations of our world today?
 - b. Do you fully understand God’s plan? Why or why not?
2. Read Habakkuk 1:6 and then 12-13.
 - a. What did Habakkuk know about God?
 - b. How did that add to Habakkuk’s confusion about God’s plan?
 - c. In what scenarios does this seeming dilemma still cause confusion today?
3. Explain the imagery of the fisherman, fish, and net in verses 14-17.
4. What did Habakkuk decide to do in 2:1? How can we emulate his humble behavior?
5. Read Habakkuk 2:2-4.
 - a. What did God clearly tell Habakkuk about the plan? (verse 3)
 - b. Why should you continue to trust God to accomplish His plan, especially when you cannot see how it will happen?
 - c. What are two things about God of which Habakkuk was sure in verse 2?
 - d. Is, or will, this always be the case for us when we ask God questions? Why or why not?
6. When faced with one of life’s difficult times, how does the phrase “the righteous shall live by faith” apply?



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SERIES 4 | SESSION 3

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2020-2021

WONDER

SCRIPTURE READING

Habakkuk 2:5-3:2

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Through 5 “woes” God exposes the fabric of justice woven through, what appeared on the surface, to be a world suffering from God’s insensitivity. The woes expose the Lord as not only God, but also as completely good. Habakkuk, having glimpsed this unwavering but formerly unnoticed reality, is rattled into change.

OBJECTIVE

God’s sovereignty gives ballast to our lives.

MODERN MYTH

“One of the modern ‘Christian myths’ that ought to be silenced says that when you trust Jesus Christ, you get rid of all your problems. You don’t. It’s true that your basic spiritual problem—your relationship with God—has been solved, but with that solution comes a whole new set of problems that you didn’t face when you were an unbeliever, like: ‘Why do good people suffer and evil people prosper?’ or ‘Why isn’t God answering my prayer?’ or ‘When I’m doing my best for the Lord, why do I experience the worst from others?’”

—Warren Wiersbe
Be Amazed

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we trust our God to work justice for His glory.

Session 3: When Questions

1. In the beginning of chapter 1, the prophet Habakkuk was concerned about the evil and injustice in his culture. What similar concerns do you have about your culture?
2. In chapter 2, God revealed five ways that He works justice beyond what is apparent on the surface of everyday life. Read Habakkuk 2:4-8.
 - a. In verse 4, what is contrasted with a life of faith?
 - b. What does prideful ambition lead people to do?
 - c. What will happen to such people?
3. In verses 9-11, God addresses false security.
 - a. What does dishonest wealth lead to?
 - b. Why is there no ultimate security apart from God?
4. Read Habakkuk 2:12-14.
 - a. What sin is God exposing in verse 12?
 - b. In the middle of these five woes, what glorious end is promised in verse 14?
5. The injustice of bullying is the topic of verses 15-17. What will the Lord bring about for these people?
6. Read Habakkuk 2:18-20.
 - a. What is the basic fallacy of man-made idols?
 - b. How does Yahweh differ from idols?
7. Read Habakkuk 3:1-2.
 - a. Identify and discuss all of the things which these two verses tell us about God.
 - b. How can Habakkuk’s prayer be mirrored in your life today?



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SERIES 4 | SESSION 4

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2020-2021

WONDER

SCRIPTURE READING

Habakkuk 3:3-19

KEY IDEAS

THEME

God's work in history, His eternal presence, and His future plans are more fully revealed to the thoughtful prophet. Habakkuk finds this reality completely changes his perspective. He still must wait for further pain – and there is no pretense (by him or the Lord) that such is fun. Nonetheless, Habakkuk confidently declares that he will exult and rejoice – because God gives him the joy of restoration and/or God guides him to eliminate his own personal idolatries.

OBJECTIVE

We walk on our high places.

STORMS OF LIFE

"Only the Christian who learns to live this way is able to encourage and inspire the weaker ones around him. Too many of us are shaken up, frightened and panicked by the storms of life. We claim to have confidence in Christ but when the first dark shadows sweep over us and the path we tread looks gloomy we go into a deep slump of despair...This is not as it should be."

—W. Phillip Keller
A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23

PRAYER

Pray for each other, that we confidently traverse the hard, high trails trusting in God.

Session 4: Who is the Answer!

1. Read Habakkuk 3:3-5 together.
 - a. What is a possible interpretation of verses 3-5 from Israel's history?
 - b. How does remembering God's past provision help you face present difficulties?
2. Read verses 6-15.
 - a. Does reflecting on God's power and powerful presence (verses 6-11) help ease your fears in difficult times? Why, or why not?
 - b. Does the enemy win in the end (verses 12-15)? How was this true for Habakkuk's situation? How is it true for us?
3. Read Habakkuk 3:16-19.
 - a. What does the prophet know is coming as part of God's plan?
 - b. What is his reaction (verse 18), and how is that reaction possible (verse 19)?
 - c. What is God's promise in verse 19? Discuss the possible interpretations.
 - d. Have you similarly experienced God's joy in a bleak situation? Describe what happened.
4. Review the Objective of this series from page 1 of this study guide. What is one thing you have learned through this study of Habakkuk? Discuss with your group.

