



habakkuk

God, why won't
You fix this?



LIVINGHOPE

baptist church

*Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who according to
His abundant mercy
has begotten us again to a
Living Hope
through the resurrection of
Jesus Christ from the dead.*

1 Peter 1:3

Community Group Purpose Statement

We, as smaller gatherings of one family, will practice with our lives the gospel truths that we confess with our mouths. Together, we will allow our lives to be challenged by the gospel and one another; we will live lives of boldness and purpose. As we walk in the light of the gospel, we will point to the grace of God and its power to set lives free from sin and death. We will continue praying, teaching, making disciples, and bearing one another's burdens. Following the pattern set before us by Jesus, we will bring joy to our family (the church) and glory to his name.

What is a Community Group?

Community groups are small gatherings of people that meet regularly for friendship, accountability, study and prayer, laughter, and occasionally tears. Community groups are an essential expression of the mission of Living Hope Baptist Church. They're a place where we learn more about Jesus and life together. They're the place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life that God intends for us.

Each community group is unique, shaped by its neighborhood and the people who attend. However, you can expect a weekly gathering in a residence that involves food, conversation, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and service in the neighborhood. At the heart of each community group is the desire to see an authentic community marked by love for Jesus, one another, and the neighborhood.

Why Should I Join a Community Group?

The God of the Bible is a Trinitarian God who is one and three persons: Father, Son, and Spirit. God has made us in his image, which means we are made for community and friendship. And when we are not living in community we suffer because life in a sinful world is too complex and tempting to journey alone. Therefore, community groups are a place where we can live in relationship with one another through the ups and downs of life.



HABAKKUK



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Habakkuk

God, Why Won't You Fix This?

INTRODUCTION

Habakkuk is a prophet of God who is being shaken deep in his soul by the silence of God and then the promised actions of God. Habakkuk is having his theology and framework of who he believes God is, challenged by God Himself. The book begins with Habakkuk being under great distress and experiencing that unsettling feeling of God's silence. He is struggling with God's apparent lack of concern and interest in the times in which he lived. Finally God answers him and now Habakkuk does not like God's answer at all. The Lord informs him that the Babylonian army is being raised up to come and bring judgment upon His people. This is inconsistent with Habakkuk's understanding of who God is and he presents to God his case that this is simply the wrong thing to do. God will come again to Habakkuk and inform him that the righteous must live by faith and that He is in His holy temple and that all the earth is to remain silent before Him. God will use the evil nation to judge His sinning people but He will not let justice go unserved as He promised to bring Judgment on Babylon. The promise is that the earth will be filled with God's glory. Habakkuk experiences a heart change and prays this wonderful prayer in chapter 3 ending with this great declaration that he will quietly wait for the day of trouble and while waiting he will rejoice in the Lord for he realizes that salvation always comes through judgment . Someone put it this way; "God brought him from whining to worship. Nothing had changed, except the prophet's heart."

LESSON ONE



Disappointed in God

Habakkuk 1:1-2:1

SUMMARY

Habakkuk is a prophet of God who is in great distress as he is struggling with the silence of God. God has seemed to be silent for some time as Habakkuk sees the people of God living in wickedness and not responding. Habakkuk has been crying out to God for help and then when God does answer he does not like the answer he receives. Habakkuk is clearly disappointed in God's silence and when he is informed of the coming Babylonian nation his view of God is rattled even further. Habakkuk attempts to prove to God that what He is about to do is simply not right nor consistent with His Holy Character. This lesson will examine the heart of Habakkuk and his disappointment with God. We will attempt to examine our lives to see if we too are disappointed with God.

(The message that goes along with this lesson, and those that follow, can be heard in its entirety on our website which is www.lhbcevv.org.)

QUESTIONS

1. What does the attitude reflected in **Jeremiah 36:23-24** towards God's Word reveal about the times in which Habakkuk lived? (See also **Jeremiah 36:2,3**)

2. What three things does Habakkuk mention that were eating at his soul towards God in **verses 2 & 3**?

3. How would you, in your own words, describe what he was thinking in **verses 2 & 3** towards God?

4. As you look at **verse 5b**, even though God was silent to Habakkuk, was He truly silent in the situation? Why or why not?

5. How would you describe this nation that God is bringing to judge them? (**Verses 6-11**)

6. What is the heart of Habakkuk's argument against God in **verse 13**? (Hint: God, since you are _____, you can't do _____)

7. In **chapter 2 verse 1**, do you see Habakkuk waiting to argue more or humbling himself before God? Explain briefly.

APPLICATION

1. What's harder: Knowing someone who wants to help but can't, or knowing someone who has the power to help but won't? Explain your answer.

2. Read **Psalm 13:1,2** and answer this: Does this look like someone who wants to help but can't, or someone who has the power to help but won't?

3. Have you put God in a "box", and when He does something outside that "box" it causes great confusion and tension in your soul?
(May also ask: What kind of "boxes" do we put God in?)
Example: "Bad things don't happen to good people."

4. What does it tell you about God when He allows Habakkuk to pour out His soul with such boldness and even challenge God?
Is this healthy for a Christian? Why or why not?

5. When have you been or are you now disappointed with God? Share with your group

PRAYER

LESSON TWO



You're Not God

Habakkuk 2:2-20

SUMMARY

Habakkuk receives his next response from God and is commanded to write it out for all to see. God gives no indication that He is going to withdraw the army of Babylon from coming against His people. However, He does inform Habakkuk that justice will be carried out against the wicked in the future and while he is waiting he is to walk by faith, live with the right priority of seeing God's glory, and silently submit before the God of the universe. Though God has seemed distant and uninvolved, He clearly is actively working and his glory will shine throughout the earth. Habakkuk must answer the question: "Do I want to be a part of that glory?"

QUESTIONS

1. Why might God's answer in **verse 3** still cause Habakkuk to be upset about God's will concerning Babylon?
2. What is the comparison between death and greed in **verse 5**?
3. There are 5 "woes" in **verses 6-20**. What does Habakkuk learn from God concerning these "woes"?

4. List the characteristics you see in **verses 18 & 19** about the idol maker and the idol itself.

APPLICATION

1. Would you say that you struggle with desiring a life of ease? If you answered no, examine how you respond when life is hard? Would that response give you a more truthful answer?

2. Do you ever feel like Jeremiah when he wrote that he felt like God was shooting His arrows at him? (**Lamentations 3:12**). Explain.

3. Habakkuk is called to live by faith and rely on God. What things are we saying about God when we do not walk by faith?

4. Habakkuk is called to live and desire God's glory. Are you committed to anything that God is not committed to? Explain.

Where do you need to grow and change in order to show others God's glory – especially in the hard times?

5. Habakkuk was reminded that God is God and that all the earth was to keep silent before Him. Where do you struggle in letting God be God in your life?

6. Finish this sentence honestly; If God is going to work out my situation this way; _____.

PRAYER

LESSON THREE



God, My Strength

Habakkuk 3

SUMMARY

Habakkuk is a changed man through the supernatural work of God received from God's words to him. Someone has said that Habakkuk started out as a "whining servant", and now in chapter 3 he is a "worshipping servant." His focus is now on God and on His great power and desire to save His people. Habakkuk rehearses the past as a declaration of what God will do in the future. Even though Habakkuk is worshipping, his heart is still heavy (3:16). Even in anticipation of how bad it is going to get, he is confident in God's saving plan. As a result Habakkuk resolves to plea for mercy, quietly wait for God's saving work, and rejoice in the God of His strength.

QUESTIONS

1. Why would what Habakkuk had heard from God cause him to be afraid? (3:2)
2. In 3:2 Habakkuk acknowledges that God's wrath is justified and is coming, but what does he pray will accompany wrath?
3. In verses 3-15, what theme do you see about God and His people as Habakkuk rehearses God's actions in the past?

4. In **verses 16**, and then in **17 & 18**, there is a pattern Habakkuk repeats. What is it? (Hint: They are connected with the word “yet”)

APPLICATION

1. Habakkuk was encouraged as he rehearsed God's great works in the past for His people. When have you seen God's great work of deliverance in your life? Single out one to share with your group.

2. Can you think of a time when God did something in your life that seemed as if nothing good could come from it, but then later you saw how God was working His way the entire time? Describe how hard it was and how you felt about what God was doing.

3. How would you refute this statement? “Life is but a random series of unfolding events.” Can you think of any Scripture that would support your answer?

4. In your own words describe what is going on with Habakkuk in **verse 16**. Have you ever believed that the first part of the verse has to go away before you can choose the second part? Is that teaching right or wrong?

5. Read aloud **verses 17-19**. Share with your group God's work in your heart as you hear these verses. (Are you ashamed, convicted, challenged, encouraged, etc...)

PRAYER

PRAYER NEEDS

PRAYER NEEDS



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For the sermons of these lessons, please visit:
www.lhbcevv.org