

Lesson Aim: To discuss and apply the concept that God welcomes us to wrestle with the hard questions of life and invites us to bring our confusion to Him.



connecting

Bridge LifeGroups are currently on summer break. We will continue to offer study questions each week in this more simplified format, which can be useful for personal devotions and/or discussion starters for LifeGroups that choose to meet for a portion of the summer months.

Ice Breaker: It's been "long time, no hear" from your friend. What is the first thing you ask your friend? The second?



growing

1. Think of an example of a recent news event that illustrates how America is moving away from her Judeo-Christian roots. What is your reaction when you hear of such events?
2. Read Habakkuk 1:1-4: If you were to have an opportunity to dialogue with God and ask Him why he allows a certain type of horrible thing to continue on earth, what activity or situation would you ask about?
3. When Habakkuk asks God why He is not responding to his cry for help (vs. 2), God answers that He is preparing the Babylonians to bring judgment on Judah (vs. 5-11). What do you think went through Habakkuk's mind when he heard God's solution?



raising

4. How are the Babylonians and their armies pictured in verses 7-11? How do you think you would respond if you were an Israelite and heard that the Babylonians were coming for you?
5. Where are you crying out to the Lord, but feel like your prayer is not being heard? Spend some time praying about those things with your group.



reaching

Close by praying through any needs that were mentioned tonight and however else the Lord leads you.

HABAKKUK

Round One:
God, aren't you going to do something?
Scott Hansen, Lead Pastor
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Habakkuk 1:1-11

SOUL TENSION (The Collision of 2 Kingdoms)

KINGDOM OF GOD

God is Honored
Truth is Absolute
Honesty & Integrity
Peace
Sin & Death are Abolished
Perfect Justice
Purity
Provision for All
Contentment
Many = One

KINGDOM OF MEN

God is Denied or Rejected
"Truth" is Relative
Character Erosion
Immoral Chaos & Fear
Sin & Death are Rampant
Corruption & Injustice
Pollution
Dehumanizing Abuse
Greedy "More-ism"
Painful Separation

- ▶ Habakkuk wrestled with the problem of divine justice... the problem of theodicy (How can an all-powerful, all-holy, all-righteous, all-loving God, allow so much evil and pain to go on unchecked in the world without doing something about it?)

❶ HISTORICAL SETTING

- ▶ Internally: A time of national upheaval characterized by spiritual compromise & gross social injustice (Habakkuk 1:2-4)
- ▶ Externally: The Babylonian Empire was aggressively on the rise as the foremost international power (Habakkuk 1:5-11)
- ▶ Date: Around 650-600 BC... Before the Babylonian invasion(s) & Judah's Exile (in 586 BC)

PRINCIPLE A: Before God does something big, He generally warns people about what is coming.

❷ HUMAN AUTHOR & CHALLENGE

- ▶ Habakkuk (the person) is a bit of a mystery
- ▶ He lived in Judah during the 7th century BC (700-600 BC)
- ▶ He was a brilliant man and a literary genius
- ▶ He knew His God very well
- ▶ Challenge: God wasn't behaving the way Habakkuk thought God should behave
 - Piece #1: God is an absolutely holy & righteous God who does not tolerate flagrant sin
 - Piece #2: The people of Judah were supposed to be the people of God
 - Piece #3: After all God had done for Judah, they were quickly turning their backs on Him
 - Piece #4: Instead of bringing judgment, God seemed indifferent toward Judah's growing evil

❸ FORMAT – QUESTION & ANSWER BETWEEN PROPHET & GOD

PRINCIPLE B: Sometimes very committed believers experience confusion & honest doubts.

ROUND ONE – COMPLAINT & ANSWER (Habakkuk 1:1-11)

PRINCIPLE C: God's timing is not like our timing.

PRINCIPLE D: Sometimes God's answers may confuse you more than your own questions.