

HABAKKUK: When God Seems Silent

Pastor Derek October 5, 2025

*Tips for the Leader:

- This <u>guide from the BibleProject</u> will give you an excellent overview of the book of Habakkuk and equip you to facilitate good discussion during this series.
- When reading portions of Habakkuk, consider reading from more than one translation. The language of Old Testament prophets is often difficult, and a deeper understanding can often be drawn from comparing English translations. [NIV, New Living (NLT), Christian Standard (CSB)]

Life Group Discussion

CONNECT: Make time for encouragement, relationship-building, and prayer.

- What kind of "wait-er" are you? Are you more patient or more impatient?
- What does it look like to wait well?

GROW: Engage with God's word, one another, and the Dream Disciple tools and practices.

Optional: Watch this BibleProject video for context and review (from 0:00 to 1:50)

https://bibleproject.com/videos/habakkuk/

Read Habakkuk 1:1-4.

- This book is essentially a dialogue between Habakkuk and God, and this is Habakkuk's first complaint. What do you notice? (words, phrases, emotion, tone)
- What is your reaction knowing that Habakkuk is complaining to God about the sins of his own people? What can we learn about lamenting the actions of the people we love?
- We get the sense that this isn't the first time Habakkuk has prayed about this. What kinds of things have you been praying about and it feels like God is silent?

Read Habakkuk 1:5-11

- Just look at verse 5- God's opening response to Habakkuk. What do we learn about God?
- What is your gut reaction to verses 6-11, that God will use an enemy of his people (the Chaldeans/Babylonians) as the means of His justice for the Israelites' sins?
- How might verse 11, "whose own might is their god!" hint at what the future holds for the Chaldeans/Babylonians?



PRACTICING LAMENT & PRAYER: Give your group time and space to practice honest prayer. Suggestions for time are included.

- (5-10 min) Using Habakkuk 1:2-4 as inspiration, encourage each person to write a lament. "God, I don't understand... I'm really struggling with... I'm confused/angry... why..."
- (3-5 min) Encourage each person to put down their pen and take time to listen. "We've expressed our complaints, let's silence our voices and listen for God's voice."
- (1 min) Leader, close the silence with a simple prayer that echoes the theme and message of Habakkuk and Romans 8:28, "Lord, we cry to you for help and we wait for you to respond, knowing that you are good and we can trust you to work all things together for good for those who love you. In your time, in your way, answer our prayers... Amen."

GO: Put your learning into practice and hold one another accountable.

- What is God saying to you?
- Remember, He is worthy of our deepest trust. You can bring your hardest questions, your deepest laments to Him. Let's practice that this week. Find your Chair every day and commit to practice honest praying.

Visit www.whoisgrace.com/read for links to the daily reading plan (YouVersion or PDF) and more resources.



HABAKKUK: When God's Ways are Confusing

Pastor Sarah Burtt October 12, 2025 **Life Group Discussion**

CONNECT: Make time for encouragement, relationship-building, and prayer.

- Read Romans 8:28. Has God used something hard in your life for your good?

GROW: Engage with God's word, one another, and the Dream Disciple tools and practices. Read <u>Habakkuk 1:12-17</u>, 2:1-5

As Habakkuk addresses God in this passage, he reveals more about who he knows God to be.

- What character traits of God does Habakkuk use as a foundation for his complaint? How do you think he came to believe these things about God? How does Habakkuk's understanding of God's character impact the questions he asks? How does it influence his ability to receive God's responses?
- How would *you* describe God's character? How does that understanding influence your perspective on how God addresses hard situations?
- What does Habakkuk do after voicing his complaint in this passage? What does he expect?
 (Read <u>Ezekiel 3:17</u>; <u>Psalm 5:3</u> for insights)
- Describe the way Habakkuk waited for God's reply. What is surprising or interesting to you?
- What do you typically do after expressing concerns or frustrations to the Lord? What kind of 'wait-er' are you? How might Habakkuk's example influence your waiting posture in future hard times?

Read Habakkuk 2:4 from a few different Bible translations (NIV, NLT, NKJV, AMP, Good News).

- How is this verse a central theme of God's Story? (Consider reviewing the <u>God's Story</u> <u>Compassionate Storyteller Tool</u>.)

Read <u>Romans 1:16-17</u>, <u>5:1-2</u>; <u>Hebrews 10:32-39</u>. How do these passages challenge us to live and find hope?

PRAY & GO: Put your learning into practice and hold one another accountable.

What situation challenges your belief that God is always at work and He is always good? Take a posture of prayer. Read through <u>Psalm 37</u> slowly, three times, and listen for God's voice.

- What is God saying to you? What are you going to do about it?

This week: Find your Chair, Reflect on God's character, and Commit to honest prayer.



HABAKKUK: Confronting Injustice

Pastor Derek October 19, 2025 **Life Group Discussion**

CONNECT: Make time for encouragement, relationship-building, and prayer.

Today's discussion revolves around waiting for God to bring justice against those who are hurting and exploiting others. Are there any public or personal situations that you are currently struggling with? As a group, discuss if there are any ways you can support each other. Take time to pray for these situations and each other.

GROW: Engage with God's word, one another, and the Dream Disciple tools and practices. Read Habakkuk 2:6-20.

Context: Today's passage describes the woes against the people of Babylon (also known as the Chaldeans). Their unjust actions were against Israel and other nations.

- Leaders: Divide into groups in a way that fits your context. Assign one of the woes to each group. (Woe 1- 2:6-8; Woe 2- 2:9-11; Woe 3- 2:12-13; Woe 4- 2:15-17; Woe 5- 2:18-19)
- Give these instructions:
 - Describe the Woe in your own words. (Bonus points for creativity! Draw it, rhyme, rap!)
 - What was the offense, and what will be the consequence? [Hint: Use Pastor Derek's titles for each woe Woe #1: The Extortioner's Fate, Woe #2: The Proud Builder's Downfall, Woe #3: The Blood-Builder's Futility, Woe #4: The Exploiter's Shame, Woe #5: The Idolater's Delusion]
 - What current situations in our world come to mind as you think about the many awful offenses of the Babylonians?
 - Which verses give us a glimpse into what God is doing or will do? How do these verses help our understanding of the problem of evil? (Help if needed: Verses 14, 16, and 20)
- Have each group share their reflections.

What other scriptures have helped your understanding of God in relationship to the problem of evil? (Suggested passages if needed: <u>Psalm 73:12-20</u>, <u>2 Peter 3:9-10</u>, <u>Titus 3:3-7</u>)

Pastor Derek described pride/arrogance (<u>Hab. 2:5</u>) and idolatry (<u>2:18</u>) as the bookends of today's scripture. We may not behave in the same ways as the Babylonians, but we are all susceptible to hurting others because of our pride and idolatry. What are the ways our pride and idolatry affect others?

- What can you do to fight against pride and idolatry in your own life?



GO: Put your learning into practice and hold one another accountable.

- FIND YOUR CHAIR- How often do you incorporate self-examination and confession into your own chair time? How do you do it? What questions do you ask? What passages do you use? What do you say to God?
- Let's practice honest prayers of confession this week.



HABAKKUK: A Song of Hope

Pastor Sarah October 26, 2025

Life Group Discussion

CONNECT: Make time for encouragement, relationship-building, and prayer.

- What is your favorite song that praises God? Share a lyric that resonates with you. Bonus points if it teaches us something about the character of God!

GROW: Engage with God's word, one another, and the Dream Disciple tools and practices. How would you summarize Habakkuk 1-2?

- Habakkuk has questioned, and God has answered: Judah will be judged by God; God will use the more wicked Babylon as the instrument of his judgment; Babylon will one day be judged
- Habakkuk now stands reminded: God is sovereign and all of creation submits to Him, wicked and righteous alike; God's justice will be revealed in His time.
- Optional: Watch the BibleProject overview video.

Read <u>Habakkuk 2:20</u>. Why is silence an appropriate response to God's presence and God's Word?

Read Habakkuk 3:1-19

- Has God answered all of Habakkuk's questions? Does He give Habakkuk an answer to all of his complaints? Do you think Habakkuk fully understands God's ways and reasons?
- What do we learn from Habakkuk about trusting God?

PRACTICING PRAISE & PRAYER: Give your group time to write a short "song of praise" to the Lord inspired by Habakkuk 3. They may want to start by looking at the Lament they wrote during week one. Invite group members to share their praises. Encourage the group to return to these words often.

GO: Put your learning into practice and hold one another accountable.

- Read Habakkuk 3:17-19 over the group, replacing "I" with "We" as a declaration of our commitment to trust God.
- If you still have questions about resting in trust rather than striving for all the answers, consider reading Job 38:1- 42:6.