

“Why God?” (Habakkuk 1:12 – 2:5)

For the week of March 26, 2017

Background

The first two chapters of this book are called a dramatic format of dialogue; they are question-and-answer exchanges between Habakkuk and God. Because of the first-person format of the dialogue, the book reads like a personal journal. Likewise, this little book flows with patterns. The prophet complains twice, listens to God twice, and prays once (chapter 3). In the first two chapters, Habakkuk's faith is troubled. In the final chapter, his faith is triumphant.

Opening

Read Habakkuk 1:12 – 2:5. When God says that He is going to use the Babylonians to judge His people, this raises a second big question in Habakkuk's mind. If you think he had a question before, he really has a question now! Habakkuk shares in 2:1 that he will wait for God to answer his request. And then God responds in 2:2-5.

“Can you explain this?”

How can a holy God use a sinful nation (Babylon) to accomplish His purposes? In today's world, does God use the godless to further His purposes? How? Discuss in your group.

“I don't understand”

Many times God's ways do not make sense. Read Isaiah 55:8-9. Share an example of how Isaiah 55:8-9 was realized in your life. How has God moved amazingly in your life? Discuss in your group.

“Trust at all times”

Read Proverbs 3:5-6. Trust in the Lord is easy when life is smooth. But when circumstances in your life do not make sense; when you have experienced pain, or tragedy, or disappointment, how does this affect your trust in the Lord? Discuss in your group.

“Let’s focus on the Lord”

Sometimes our best act of faith is not to try to answer life's hard questions, but to reflect instead on the character of God as Habakkuk did in 1:12. How can reflecting on God's character help someone dealing with a difficult situation? Discuss in your group.

“It’s tough to wait...but I will”

Chapter 2 starts with an expectant Habakkuk waiting to hear from the Lord. When waiting on God, is it that God is slow to respond, or is it that we are often in a hurry for an answer? Discuss in your group and share an example of when you waited on God.

“I choose faith in God”

Read 2:4. This describes the Babylonian nation as a whole, but mainly looking at their king. It is relevant today in providing a contrast between faithless and faithful. The phrase *“but the righteous shall live by his faith”* is quoted in the New Testament to emphasize that people are saved by grace through faith (read Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Ephesians 2:8) and that Christians should live by faith (read Hebrews 10:38-39).

Habakkuk 2:4 gives the two ways which are opened to man. What are they? Read Matthew 7:13-14. Why is the way narrow (read John 14:6)? How do you respond to those who argue that there are many ways to God and heaven?

Pray

Pray Proverbs 3:5-6 and Psalm 33:4-6.