

Habakkuk 1:1-12
Living by Faith
Study Guide

Habakkuk lived during difficult times in his nation. Most of his people were far from God, and anarchy was beginning to take hold. When he prayed it seemed like God didn't hear and didn't care. He says, *"How long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear?"* Have you ever felt that way? You are not alone.

Join us this weekend to explore what it means to express our doubts to God and still live by faith.

1. Engage. Read Habakkuk 1:1-4.

Notice that Habakkuk engages God despite his frustration. Express in your own experience, the tension of knowing that God exists, praying to Him, and yet only seeing dimly. Share a time when you asked God "How long...?" or felt like He doesn't really care.

2. Read Habakkuk 1:5-11.

Describe in your own words what it may have felt like to live in Judah during that time. Notice the tension between "I am doing a work...", and words like "destruction" and "captivity." How can those two dynamics fit into our minds? How can God be doing a great work, and also allow for hardship? Discuss.

3. Look. Read Habakkuk 1:5 again. What words are used here to challenge us to look beyond our scenario? Today we have the privilege of seeing what God was talking about. In Daniel 4 and Esther 8 we see how through Israel's captivity, God was bringing light to the entire world!!

Eyes of faith allow us to see beyond our news headlines and to believe that God is doing an incredible work. What might God be doing in our world? How can we be in awe of what He is currently doing? Discuss.

4. Align. Read Habakkuk 1:12.

Restate this verse in your own words (*Give it a try*). Discuss together how Jesus is the fulfillment of this verse. What does it mean to you that Christ is your "Rock"? Discuss.

Application

Spend some time praying together. Confess your fears and affirm your faith in God.

Habakkuk 1:1-12
Live by Faith

Image Italy 1
Image Italy 2

How most people cope:
1. Anesthetic
2. Analytic

Habakkuk: "...but the just shall live by faith." Habakkuk 2:4b

"We walk by faith and not sight." 2 Corinthians 5:6
"Without faith, it's impossible to please God." Hebrews 11:6

What is faith?
"...the assurance of things hoped for; the conviction of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1

What Results from Faith?
1. Salvation (Eph. 2:8-9)
2. Justification (Rom. 5:1-2)
3. Peace with God (Rom. 5:1-2)
4. Forgiveness (Acts 10:43)
5. Adoption (John 1:12)
6. Protection (1 Peter 1:5)
7. Sanctification (Acts 26:18)

The Story of God
Creates, Rejected, Promises, Appears, Sends, Restores.

Habakkuk- Living by Faith
1. Faith to Engage God (1:1-12)
2. Faith to Wait on God (1:13-2:20)
3. Faith to Rejoice in God (3:1-19)

Habakkuk 1:1
The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet saw.

Big Idea: Engage, Look & Align Yourself with God.

A. Engage- Habakkuk's Complaint (1:2-4)
1. God Doesn't Seem to Hear (v. 2)

² O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save?

2. God Doesn't Seem to Care (v. 3-4)

³ Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong?

Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise.

⁴ So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth.

For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted.

Big Idea: Engage, Look & Align Yourself with God.

B. Look- God's Answer (v. 5-11)

⁵ "Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded.

For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told.

⁶ For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, who march through the breadth of the earth, to seize dwellings not their own.

B. Look- God's Answer (v. 5-11 cont.)

⁷ They are dreaded and fearsome; their justice and dignity go forth from themselves.⁸ Their horses are swifter than leopards, more fierce than the evening wolves; their horsemen press proudly on. Their horsemen come from afar; they fly like an eagle swift to devour.⁹ They all come for violence, all their faces forward. They gather captives like sand. ¹⁰ At kings they scoff, and at rulers they laugh. They laugh at every fortress, for they pile up earth and take it. ¹¹ Then they sweep by like the wind and go on, guilty men, whose own might is their god!"

B. Look- God's Answer (v. 5-11)

⁵ "Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded.

For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told.

Daniel 4:1-3

King Nebuchadnezzar to all peoples, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you! ² It has seemed good to me to show the signs and wonders that the Most High God has done for me.

³ How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion endures from generation to generation

Esther 8:17b

"...and many from the nations...declared themselves Jews..."

C. Align- Habakkuk Responds (v. 12)

¹² Are you not from everlasting, O Lord my God, my Holy One? We shall not die.

O Lord, you have ordained them as a judgment, and you, O Rock, have established them for reproof.

1 Corinthians 10:4

“They drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.”

Big Idea: Engage, Look & Align Yourself with God.