

Habakkuk 1:13-2:20
Faith to Wait on God
Study Guide

1. Describe the tension of living in a fast-paced culture, where waiting seems to be a failure to be efficient and effective; it seems like a waste. Yet in the Bible we are told it's good to wait on the Lord. (Isa. 40:31). Share an example of being delayed, or having to wait and how you handled it (*don't be shy*).

2. Read Habakkuk 1:13-17. Notice that Habakkuk is saying the Chaldeans are so evil, and wondering how long God will allow them to prevail. What must that have felt like for him? Discuss.

3. How the Christian Waits

Read Habakkuk 2:1-4, and discuss how we as Christians are supposed to wait on the LORD.

a. Wait attentively (2:1). What does it look like for you to restrict yourself to the "tower"? (see also Proverbs 18:10). Discuss.

b. Wait in hope (2:2-3). What does it mean that God has already provided the great vision? How does knowing the future help you to wait in hope?

c. Wait humbly (2:4). Notice the contrast between those who are 'puffed up' and those who 'live by faith'. Share an example of when you had a vision for something (a relationship, at work, an adventure), and you were faced with having to humble yourself before God and submit your plan into His care. Discuss.

4. How the World Waits

Read Habakkuk 2:5-17, and discuss how wine (v. 5a), greed (v. 5b), and taking by force (v. 6-17) lead to shame. Share examples of that in our culture.

5. Waiting is not a Waste, it's Worship!

Read Habakkuk 2:18-20. Notice how idols are of no profit to us. Share what we tend to go to, when we have to wait. Now discuss what it's like for you to enter the "temple" (v.20), and be in "silence" before God. Share in your own words how waiting is not a waste, but it's worship.

Application

When you feel the tension of waiting on God, turn it into worship. Here are a few ideas:

- Confess your tendency to impose your vision onto God.
- Name the things that you need to submit to God's Lordship.
- Thank God for times of waiting and ask Him to speak to you.
- Listen to worship songs, read about God's character and promises in the Bible, and talk freely with Him as with a friend.

Message Outline
Habakkuk 1:13-2:20
Faith to Wait on God

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

Habakkuk 1:13- They are more evil than us!

¹³You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong, why do you idly look at traitors and remain silent when the wicked swallows up the man more righteous than he?

Habakkuk 1:14-15- We are vulnerable!

¹⁴You make mankind like the fish of the sea, like crawling things that have no ruler.

¹⁵He brings all of them up with a hook; he drags them out with his net; he gathers them in his dragnet; so he rejoices and is glad.

Habakkuk 1:16-17- They worship force!

¹⁶Therefore he sacrifices to his net and makes offerings to his dragnet; for by them he lives in luxury, and his food is rich. ¹⁷Is he then to keep on emptying his net and mercilessly killing nations forever?

Today: Faith to Wait on God. Habakkuk 1:13-2:20

Big Idea: Waiting is not a Waste, it's Worship!

A. How the Christian Waits (Habakkuk 2:1-4)

1. Wait Attentively (v.1)

I will take my stand at my watchpost and station myself on the tower, and look out to see what he will say to me, and what I will answer concerning my complaint.

There is Power in the Tower- Proverbs 18:10

“The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.”

Big Idea: Waiting is not a Waste, it's Worship!

2. Wait in Hope (v.2-3)

²And the Lord answered me:

“Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it.

³For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.

Big Idea: Waiting is not a Waste, it's Worship!

3. Wait Humbly (v.4)

⁴ "Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith."

Puffed up- "I am god, and you are not!"

By faith- "You are God, and I am not!"

3. Wait Humbly (v.4)

⁴ "Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith."

Big Idea: Waiting is not a Waste, it's Worship!

B. How the World Waits (Habakkuk 2:5-17)

1. Wine (v.5a)

⁵ "Moreover, wine is a traitor, an arrogant man who is never at rest.

2. Greed (5b)

His greed is as wide as Sheol; like death he has never enough. He gathers for himself all nations and collects as his own all peoples."

3. Control by Force (v. 6-15)

⁶ Shall not all these take up their taunt against him, with scoffing and riddles for him, and say, "Woe to him who heaps up what is not his own—for how long?—and loads himself with pledges!"

⁷ Will not your debtors suddenly arise, and those awake who will make you tremble? Then you will be spoil for them.

⁸ Because you have plundered many nations, all the remnant of the peoples shall plunder you, for the blood of man and violence to the earth, to cities and all who dwell in them.

3. Control by Force (v. 6-15 continued)

⁹ "Woe to him who gets evil gain for his house, to set his nest on high, to be safe from the reach of harm!

¹⁰ You have devised shame for your house by cutting off many peoples; you have forfeited your life.

¹¹ For the stone will cry out from the wall, and the beam from the woodwork respond.

¹² "Woe to him who builds a town with blood and founds a city on iniquity!

3. Control by Force (v. 6-15 continued)

¹³ Behold, is it not from the Lord of hosts that peoples labor merely for fire, and nations weary themselves for nothing?

¹⁴ For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁵ "Woe to him who makes his neighbors drink—you pour out your wrath and make them drunk, in order to gaze at their nakedness!

B. How the World Waits (Habakkuk 2:5-17 *continued*)

¹⁶You will have your fill of shame instead of glory. Drink, yourself, and show your uncircumcision! The cup in the Lord's right hand will come around to you, and utter shame will come upon your glory! ¹⁷The violence done to Lebanon will overwhelm you, as will the destruction of the beasts that terrified them, for the blood of man and violence to the earth, to cities and all who dwell in them.

C. Waiting is about Worship (Habakkuk 2:18-20)

¹⁸"What profit is an idol when its maker has shaped it, a metal image, a teacher of lies? For its maker trusts in his own creation when he makes speechless idols!

¹⁹Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake; to a silent stone, Arise!

Can this teach? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in it.

C. Waiting is about Worship (Habakkuk 2:18-20 *continued*)

²⁰But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him."

Big Idea: Waiting is not a Waste, it's Worship!