

PRAYER

- Ask God for strength, patience, and hope as you wait for His purposes to be done in your circumstance. Believe Him for victory and favor.



Honor God. Make Disciples.

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WHEN
G O D
DOESN'T
MAKE
SENSE

Week 1

NOTES

CONNECT

- Recount a time when you desperately hoped for something to happen, but still it did not. How did you feel?
- Can you remember a time when you felt so helpless? What happened? What did you do and how did it turn out?
- Growing up, for what reasons were you disciplined by your parents? How did they do it?

WORD

²How long, O LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, “Violence!” but you do not save? ³Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds. . . . ⁵“Look at the nations and watch—and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.

Habakkuk 1:2,3,5

WHAT What does the Bible say?

Habakkuk was God’s prophet who witnessed his nation go through turbulent times. Seeing violence all around him for too long, he began questioning God. He however answered Habakkuk in a way that required him to trust Him more. What can we learn from Habakkuk’s response?

- **Be secure in who God is.**

O LORD, are you not from everlasting? My God, my Holy One, we will not die. O LORD, you have appointed them to execute judgment; O Rock, you have ordained them to punish.

Habakkuk 1:12

Habakkuk must have felt for his people going through the turmoil. It seemed like God was not doing anything about it. However, Habakkuk reminded himself of how great God is, how He is always in control, and the promises He gave the people. When experiencing hard times, what attributes of God can you count on? How does this help you keep the faith?

- **Go to God and ask Him.**

Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?

Habakkuk 1:13

Being fully convinced of who God is, Habakkuk goes on to humbly ask God about what will happen next. God actually encourages us to communicate with Him (Jeremiah 33:3) and our attitude should be that of trust and desiring that His will would come to pass. Whenever you ask God questions, what do you realize (Isaiah 55:9)?

- **Wait on God’s answer.**

I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint.

Habakkuk 2:1

. . . but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31

From worry and doubt, Habakkuk became a watchman waiting in prayer for God to answer the concerns he raised. He waited on Him no matter how long it took because he trusted God’s power and goodness. God has given us many promises in His Word like in Romans 8:28. How does this help boost your trust in Him?

SO WHAT What is the relevance of the Word to my life?

- What confidence does it give you to know that God is holy and that He is more in control than we realize?
- Knowing that God is sovereign, holy, and just, what do you think about “presenting your requests to God” (Philippians 4:6)?
- Our preferred timing is good, but God’s timing is always perfect. What do you think about this statement?

NOW WHAT How do I apply the Word to my life?

- Habakkuk 1:5 actually points to Jesus, our holy God, Who came to our rescue from sin and death. How is the free gift of salvation at work in your life now? Talk to your group leader about this.
- How can you pray according to God’s will? Who are the people in your church who can help you with this?
- What specific promises can you hold on to while waiting on God for answers to your request? How can you encourage those who are waiting on God as well to be strong in their faith?