

CONNECTGROUPGUIDE

HABAKKUK

WHEN GOD SEEMS UNFAIR

Year of
HOPE
2025



HABAKKUK

WHEN GOD SEEMS UNFAIR

DOES GOD CARE?

HABAKKUK 1:1-11

IS GOD FAIR?

HABAKKUK 1:12 - 2:20

IS GOD THERE?

HABAKKUK 3:1-19

INTRO

Habakkuk is the author of the eighth book of the Minor Prophets. The meaning of his name is uncertain, but it's likely to be 'embrace' or 'wrestle' reflecting his struggle with understanding God's ways. Nothing is known about him apart from what can be inferred from his book.

He is engaged in a dialogue with God, expressing his concerns and questions about the violence and injustice he sees.

Habakkuk lived in the period before the rise of the Chaldeans during the reign of the Judean king Jehoiakim, likely around 605–589 BC.

The Book of Habakkuk reveals a man of great sensitivity. His deep concern about injustice and his prayer show that Habakkuk was characterised by profound religious conviction and social awareness.

Some guidelines for Connect Group ...

- Come to the study prepared; preparation will greatly enrich your time together; it is recommended to take notes during the Sunday sermon, and to write down your thoughts as you prepare
- As part of your preparation, why not listen to the sermon again during the week (*most sermons are recorded and available on [Apple Podcasts](#), and also on the [website](#)*)
- As you prepare, pray that God will speak to you through his word
- Be willing to participate in your group. Your sharing will greatly encourage all the other members as you grow together
- Stick to the topic - this allows everyone to participate on level ground and to go deeper into the Bible
- Be sensitive to others and listen attentively; affirm others, especially those who may feel timid or don't often share
- Your leader won't be lecturing, but helping members to think through the questions. Some of the questions don't have a 'right' answer, especially those that apply the Bible to our lives
- Be careful not to dominate, as it could inhibit others from sharing
- Expect God to teach you through the passage and through other members, and always pray that it will be a profitable time together

DOES GOD CARE?

INTRO

How do you deal with having to wait for tough things to change?

Habakkuk 1 shows a deep dialogue between a distressed man and a sovereign God. Even in the face of adversity and incomprehensible divine plans, this chapter encourages us to hold on to a strong faith in God's righteousness and justice, echoing that His ways are not our ways, and His thoughts are not our thoughts.

Read Habakkuk 1:1-11

1. How does the meaning of Habakkuk's name ("embrace" or "wrestle") reflect his role as a prophet and his relationship with God?
2. How does Habakkuk 1:2-4 reconcile a just God with prolonged injustice and unanswered cries for help?
3. How is Habakkuk's message relevant to us today?

Sermon Notes

4. In what ways can you relate to Habakkuk's struggle to understand God's justice in your life today?

5. How does God's answer in vv.5-11 shape our understanding of His justice and righteousness?

6. Can you think of modern examples where evil was used to ultimately bring about good?

7. What can we learn from Habakkuk about bringing our doubts and questions to God in prayer?

Extension Question

8. How can we reconcile the reality of evil in the world with the existence of a good and loving God?



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- Pray for the courage to bring your questions and doubts to God, trusting in His love and wisdom
 - Ask God for a deeper understanding of His justice and sovereignty, especially in difficult times
 - Pray for the strength to persevere in faith, even when God's ways are not clear
 - Ask for God's guidance to align your perspective with His, and to see His hand at work in your life

Sermon Notes

INTRO

Has there been a time in your life when you have felt that God was silent?

Habakkuk 2 is a powerful reminder that even when the world is in chaos and evil seems to be winning, God's justice is sure. The apparent success of the wicked is temporary and their downfall will come. It reinforces the crucial message that "the righteous will live by his faith" (Habakkuk 2:4). It encourages us to trust God's timing, remain patient, and have faith in His righteous judgment.

Read Habakkuk 1:12-17

1. What do you see as the key themes in Habakkuk's second complaint?
2. How do we see God's ultimate control and power over nations and history in Habakkuk 1?
3. In what ways does Habakkuk 2:4 ("the righteous will live by his faithfulness/faith") resonate with your own life?

Sermon Notes

Read Habakkuk 2:1-5

3. What do you learn from the Lord's direction to Habakkuk in vv.2-3?
4. v.4 What practical steps can we take to live by faith, as Habakkuk ultimately does, when we face uncertainty and challenges in our lives?
6. How does this chapter encourage us to respond when we witness evil or injustice?
7. In what ways does v.20 speak into your life?

Read Habakkuk 2:5-20

5. Discuss the implications of the five woes (vv.6-19). How do they apply to our society today?



- Ask God to help you wait patiently and discern His voice in your life
- Request God's strength to live by faith, especially in challenging times
- Thank God for His promises and ask for a heart that remains hopeful and expectant of His glory

Sermon Notes

IS GOD THERE?

INTRO

***Reflect on James 1:2-3
'Consider it pure joy, my
brothers and sisters,
whenever you face trials
of many kinds, because
you know that the testing
of your faith produces
perseverance.'***

Habakkuk 3 is a powerful testimony to the unshakeable faith of God's servant in times of great distress. Despite the coming catastrophe, Habakkuk chooses to rejoice in the Lord, revealing the depths of his faith. This inspires us to hold on to our faith in God, even in times of trouble, and to always seek His mercy.

Read Habakkuk 3:1-19

1. How is Habakkuk's approach to prayer in chapter 3 different from his earlier complaints?
2. What can we learn from his approach about handling our own doubts and questions?
3. What does Habakkuk's prayer teach us about approaching God in times of fear and uncertainty?

Sermon Notes

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| 4. Share ways the imagery used in this chapter shapes your understanding of God's character and power? | 7. v.16 Why is it significant that Habakkuk acknowledges his fear but chooses to trust in God anyway? |
| 5. How might Habakkuk's message of hope and faith (in the middle of impending doom) be applied to challenges today? | 8. What does it mean for you to say that God is your strength, as Habakkuk does in verse 19? |
| 6. How do vv.3-15 remind you of God's sovereignty and power over creation and history? | |



- Thank God for His control over all things and His faithfulness throughout history
- Pray for the strength to trust God and rejoice in Him, even when facing difficult circumstances
- Ask God to fill your heart with His peace and joy, trusting in the assurance of your salvation
- Seek God's guidance to develop a deeper, more consistent prayer life, bringing all your concerns to Him

Sermon Notes



*Living to Love and
Proclaim Jesus*

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