

## Sermon Discussion

### 7 June 2020

Read Habakkuk 1:1-11 together

#### Dig Deeper

1. As Habakkuk looked upon a world of evil, suffering, and sorrow, he struggled to understand what God was doing. Can you empathize with Habakkuk's feelings? If you're willing, share a situation in your life that resulted in a similar posture toward and questioning of God.
2. The sermon described Habakkuk's engagement with God as one of faithful wrestling. Habakkuk was emotionally and intellectually honest with God, and yet he never considered walking away from his faith in God.
  - i) How would you describe the way you typically communicate with God? Is it with a similar level of authenticity as Habakkuk or is it generally more reserved and courteous?
  - ii) How has your upbringing and prior religious teaching/experience, or a lack thereof, impacted the way you approach God and wrestle with difficult circumstances?
3. The late scholar Derek Kidner wrote that, *"The very presence of such prayers [like those of Habakkuk] in the Scripture is a witness to God's understanding. He knows how we speak when we are desperate."* Read Psalm 39 and Psalm 88 together. What other instances in the Bible can you recall where similar anguished prayers are recorded?
4. Read the following Bible verses together – Habakkuk 1:5, Deuteronomy 29:29, Psalm 115:3, Isaiah 45:7-9, and Isaiah 55:8-9. While God always works in alignment with His character and purposes, He often does so on a timeframe that differs from our expectations and from a perspective that we cannot see.

How has your acceptance of those realities changed from when you first began following Jesus to where you are today? If you're not a follower of Jesus, how do those verses and this framework on how God works make you feel?

#### Application & Prayer

- Based on this week's sermon, are there any changes you would like to implement in your prayer life with God? If so, share those with your group members. How can they provide accountability?

- Over the coming week, work through the following prompts during your time with God. Write your answers down and be prepared to report back to your group the next time you meet.

Prompt #1: God's grace on our behalf allows us to approach Him with confidence (see Hebrews 4:16). Write out, with complete honesty, a prayer to God about how you are doing right now. As a helpful guide for self-evaluation, consider the following areas of your life – relational, physical, mental, and spiritual.

Prompt #2: Ask God to speak to you through both the Bible and the Holy Spirit in response to what you wrote. Spend time listening and reading and write down anything you believe you received from God.