



Main Passage: Habakkuk 1:1-11

Theological Theme

Habakkuk knew God's judgment would be unpleasant and harsh, but he welcomed it because he knew it was the only way to get the people's attention. God always uses judgment for the purpose of restoring and reconciling His people unto Himself.

Introduction

- ❓ Who do you ask when you have a question about parenting? Car trouble? Health issues? Recipes? Marriage?
- ❓ Why does it matter who you go to for answers to your questions?

1. Taking Problems to God (Habakkuk 1:1-4)

These verses in Habakkuk 1 are the first questions he posed to the Lord. Habakkuk was burdened by what he saw, and instead of taking his questions elsewhere, he took them straight to the One he knew could do something about it.

- ❓ Why would there be added difficulty in seeing the people go from faithful to unfaithful in Habakkuk's time? Consider people you know. Without giving details, what makes this process hard to observe?
- ❓ What breaks your heart and makes you feel burdened about the world around you?
- ❓ Application: How do you relate to Habakkuk? How is God calling you to respond to the things you see around you?

2. God Answers (Habakkuk 1:5-6)

God received Habakkuk's questions and responded without censure or criticism. He didn't chastise Habakkuk for asking, just as He doesn't and won't chastise us for asking today.

- ❓ How does trusting God relieve our worry even when hard circumstances surround us?
- ❓ When have you trusted God's plan even though you didn't completely understand it? What did you learn from that experience?
- ❓ Application: Where do you need to trust God's plan in your life? How should your trust lead you to act?

3. Trust God's Judgment Will Come (Habakkuk 1:7-11)

The picture God painted for Habakkuk was detailed and scary. The people of Judah were about to reap what they had sown in rebellion and sin.

- ❓ How do you respond when you see God's plan unfolding, specifically when it is different than you would have preferred?
- ❓ How would God's judgment of His people ultimately serve for their good? How does God use discipline in our lives as a loving Father (see Hebrews 12:6)?
- ❓ Why does it matter that God can use even the ungodly to bring about His plans? What does this show about His power and might? How does this compare to the worldly sense of power and might held by the Babylonians?

Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

- ❓ What does this passage say?
- ❓ What did this passage mean to its original audience?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about God?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about man?
- ❓ What does this passage demand of me?
- ❓ How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
- ❓ How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC

Here's How to Become a Christ-Follower:

Read the following verses and ask after each one: "What does this say to me?"

- **All have sinned:** Romans 3:23 & 1 John 1:8
- **The wages of sin:** Romans 6:23 & John 3:18
- **But while we were sinners, salvation was provided:** Romans 5:8
- **Become a Christ-follower:** Romans 10:9-10 Confess and Believe

Accepting Christ is Just the Beginning:

Next Steps:

- Publicly profess your faith by being baptized (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 3:21; Romans 6:4).
- Join a church which follows the Bible, where you can grow in your faith through prayer, Bible study and fellowship with other Christians.
- Get involved in groups for encouragement and accountability.
- Begin a daily personal worship experience with God where you study the Bible and pray.
- Share with others what Jesus has done for you. Tell your story (Romans 10:14; Matthew 28:19-20).
- Begin to live for God (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18; James 1:19-27).