

Week Beginning: 30th June 2019

Worship Series: #2 in series

living sharing growing

Theme Verse

The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights

Habakkuk 3:19

Remember This Week

When you have nothing to hold on to for the future and the rivers of doubt are sweeping you away, when the waters of fear, chaos or anxiety are rising and you are in danger of going under, wait on the Lord. He will act. For he is still all powerful and mighty to save.



Do not be silent, O God of my praise. For wicked and deceitful mouths are opened against me, speaking against me with lying tongues. They beset me with words of hate, and attack me without cause...Help me O Lord my God! Save me according to your steadfast love. Let them know that this is your hand; you, O Lord have done it...With my mouth I will give great thanks to the Lord; I will praise him in the midst of the throng. For he stands at the right hand of the needy, to save them from those who would condemn them to death.

Psalms 109, selected verses.

Heavenly Father, Sometimes we forget who you are and all that you have already done for us. As we gather together around your word again, remind us of your love for us. Remind us of all that you have done throughout human history to bring about the saving life, death, and resurrection of your son Jesus. By your Holy Spirit, give us confidence to trust your unfailing love for us. Amen



1. *Share your highs and lows since you last met with one another.*
2. *Share how you went with your living purposefully from last time?*
3. *Have you ever been in a situation which made you feel like there was nothing you could do? How did you handle it?*
4. *What is the fear, worry or struggle that is rising up in your life at the moment?*
5. *Look back since your last LifeGroup. What is one thing God has done in your life since then?*

What now? It's a common question in the face of situations over which you have no control. When a husband can't fix the sickness of his wife. When a parent can't remove the pain of a child. When all the options dry up and the struggle is unavoidable. What do I do now? What do you do when the season of uncertainty is inevitable? When you have nothing left to fall back on? When all that you are counting on in the present suddenly comes crumbling down? What do you do when you grow tired of the fight, the struggle? That's the question Habakkuk faces today and his word to the people back then is as relevant to us today. So if you have ever voiced the question, "what now", come and meet the one whose power is real and is able to transform your questions into an exclamation point.

Read Habakkuk 3:1-16

6. *What key words/thoughts/ideas/questions arise for you as you hear this text?*
7. *Chapter 3 of Habakkuk is the prophet's response to God's declaration of justice at the hands of the Babylonians. He knows there are bad times coming. What do you think allows Habakkuk to "wait quietly"?*



MAJOR QUESTIONS FROM THE MINOR PROPHETS



Habakkuk's response offers us three options for what we can do when we find ourselves at our limits, simply waiting quietly for God to show up and save us. Our waiting is not to be an idle waiting, wasting time as if nothing else matters or there is no hope. Our waiting should have a form similar to Habakkuk's. His first response is to recall who God is and what He has done. For us, the easiest way to do this is by reading our Bible. However, we can also look back over our own lives and call to mind all that God has done for us.

8. *What parts of scripture help to remind you of who God is and what he has done for you?*

The second part of Habakkuk's response is prayer. The introduction and title given to this passage tell us that this is a prayer. However, it looks and sounds different to the way you and I might have been taught to pray. The way we speak to others gives us some insight into our relationship with them. We speak differently to those we have close relationships with compared to those with whom we have a more formal relationship or an unfamiliar acquaintance.

9. *What would you say about Habakkuk's relationship with God on the basis of this prayer? What do your prayers say about your relationship with God?*

10. *Habakkuk is no longer complaining and pleading to God for help in this prayer as he was in chapter 1. What do you think brought about this change of attitude?*

Read Habakkuk 3:17-20

Habakkuk's final response is one of praise and worship. In the midst of fruitless fig trees and failing crops and olive groves, in other words a fruitless situation, Habakkuk is found praising God. But what came first? Like the chicken and the egg question, does Habakkuk's praise and adoration come from a change of heart, or does the willful act of praise and adoration of the Almighty God cause a change of heart and attitude? Have a look at Philippians 4:4-7. There is something about rejoicing, praising God for his goodness and faithfulness, which pulls us from despair and lifts us up to receive a peace which passes understanding. A peace in the midst of despair.

11. *Can you share a time where choosing to praise God in spite of the circumstances changed your attitude and brought you peace?*

12. *What are some of the other things you have turned to for peace in difficult times?*

13. *How does the exhortation in Philippians 4 echo the wisdom of Habakkuk's response?*

14. *What areas of your life might you need to hand over to God in praise and thanksgiving in order to receive his peace.*

The answer to the 'what now?' question is simple but not easy. All we need to do is to wait on God; to wait on him in prayer and praise. Yet it is in trying and testing circumstances when we need to do this the most, that we are also more inclined to try and fight our way out by ourselves. Train yourself to find God at work in the small things of daily life. When you do this, you will find it easier to praise him for all he has done and he will lift you from despair to hope.

What we learn from Habakkuk is that God is faithful and just, and works all things for his purpose, in his own time. Sometimes all that is left for us to do is watch and pray. Yet just like Jesus disciples on the night of his betrayal, we often can't even manage to do that.

18. *What are some ways you have felt/seen/witnessed God at work in the world around you? How can you remain watchful to see him at work in the small things?*

19. *Sometimes God uses us to do his work for those in need. Who is someone in your life who might be struggling through an issue? Spend some time in prayer this week asking God to help you see how you could bring them his peace.*

* Praise God for his steadfast and consistent love that protects and keeps you. Thank him for his glorious power and majesty and all of his creation.

* Pray for those who are at the end of their options, who feel like there is nowhere else for them to turn.

* Pray for each other - for the ability to wait in quiet confidence in the face of trials.

* Consider finishing tonight with the Lord's Prayer. Reflect on how it declares the truth of who God is, places all our cares and needs in his hands and then praises him and his power and glory.

Turn to the person next to you and make the sign of the cross on the palm of their hand or forehead as you say:

Name, the Lord is your strength always. Amen.

