

DISCUSSION GUIDE for Habakkuk: It's OK to Ask God "Why"

Lesson Summary

In this lesson on the prophet Habakkuk, we see a man who honestly questioned God about evil, suffering, and injustice. Rather than rebuking Habakkuk, God engaged him in conversation. Habakkuk struggled to understand why God would allow wickedness and why He would use Babylon, an even more evil nation, as part of His judgment. Through this dialogue, Habakkuk learned that God's plans are larger than human understanding and that the righteous are called to live by faith. The lesson also emphasizes the importance of developing a continual conversational relationship with God through prayer, Scripture, listening, reflection, and trust.

Ice-breaker Question

Have you ever experienced a situation where you questioned why God allowed something difficult to happen? How did you respond?

Discussion Questions for a Group; Journal Questions for Individual Study

1. Why do you think God allowed Habakkuk to question Him so openly? What does this teach us about prayer?
2. Habakkuk was troubled by evil and injustice around him. What situations in today's world cause people to ask similar questions?
3. How did Habakkuk react when God's answer was not what he expected? Have you ever experienced disappointment with God's timing or methods?
4. What does the statement, "the righteous person will live by faith," mean in practical daily life?

5. The lesson emphasized having a continual conversation with God. What are some ways we can develop that habit?
 6. What part of Habakkuk's final prayer of trust challenges or encourages you the most?
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Life Application Suggestions, consider and respond

1. Spend time this week honestly talking with God about a concern or question you have been carrying.
 2. Begin or continue a prayer journal where you write prayers, thoughts, and insights from Scripture.
 3. Choose one Bible verse from this lesson to meditate on daily and ask God how it applies to your life.
 4. Practice responding in faith and trust when circumstances do not immediately improve or make sense.
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Prayer Focus

Pray for a deeper conversational relationship with God, for patience to trust Him when life is confusing, and for faith to believe that He is working even when we do not understand His plans.