

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

HABAKKUK

These questions are for the **November 22, 2015** sermon, "Hope in the midst of darkness." Please read the sermon passage (Habakkuk 3:16-19) together out loud.

Sermon Outline:

WHEN FACING DARK TIMES . . .

1. **Admit your fear** (16)
 - A. "Strong faith is not incompatible with fleshly weakness." -JM Boice
 - B. Bring your bone-shattering and intense fears to the one who holds all things in his hand.
 - C. When we truly encounter God--see him for who he is--we will shut our mouth and realize that he is good and right to do exactly what pleases him.
2. **Acknowledge your circumstances** (17)
 - A. The Christian is not to be simply stoic, acting like everything is okay. God gets no glory when we pretend. Habakkuk was living in an economic and political and ecological wasteland.
 - B. We all have an inherent desire to see things made right. When things are wrong, we struggle.
 - C. God addresses this issue of rightness primarily at the cross, where Jesus takes the wrongs of the world and makes things right for those who trust him.
3. **Affirm your joy** (18-19)
 - A. Joy is a constant and chosen internal certainty that God is in control.
 - B. Joy does not depend on outward prosperity. Even in the darkest circumstances you belong to God, and he belongs to you if you have trusted Christ alone for salvation.
 - C. Habakkuk quietly waited for the Lord to vindicate; and he waited faithfully.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: What fears are present in your life today? In what way are you bringing them to the Lord? In what ways are you not bringing them to the Lord? How can we help?
2. Based on #1, above: Have you come to the place where you have accepted that God is good and right to do whatever he pleases? Have you truly encountered the Lord?
3. Based on #2, above: God won the ultimate victory over sin and suffering at the cross of his Son, Jesus Christ. How does Jesus' victory in being raised from the dead affect your attitude, your mood, your outlook, your words and your emotions about your circumstances? How might God be using your suffering to teach the world around you about his righteousness and faithfulness? How can you turn conversations about the troubles of your life into conversations about the victory of God over sin and death by raising Christ from the dead?
4. Based on #3, above: You can choose to believe that God is in perfect control and is marching history along perfectly to its appointed end--even while your life is hard. Do you choose joy?
5. Based on #3, above: Habakkuk served the Lord faithfully while he waited for the Lord to act. How have you been faithful to the Lord while you are waiting? How have you been unfaithful? How can we pray for you?