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HABAKKUK

3 WEEK DEVOTIONAL

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WELCOME.

For families, couples, friends, and individuals
Life does not always make sense. We pray, we wait, and sometimes we wonder what God is doing. Habakkuk helps us bring those questions to the Lord and learn to trust His character. Over these three weeks, we will move from honest questions to patient faith and worship in difficult circumstances.

How to Use This Guide
Plan for three devotionals each week, allowing a day between readings. Across nine devotionals, you will read the whole book. Set aside time for each session.

The general questions are for everyone. Discuss them with your spouse, family, or friends, or use them for personal reflection and journaling. Each devotional also includes a bolded family question designed to invite children into the conversation. Use it when helpful. Younger children can answer in a few words or draw their response. Listen without rushing, welcome honest answers, and let adults share what they are learning too. The guided prayers use “we”; feel free to pray “I” when reading alone.

Before You Begin
Habakkuk lived among God's people in Judah during a time of violence and injustice. He asked why God allowed evil to continue. God's answer included coming judgment through Babylon, also called the Chaldeans. Babylon was itself a violent nation, and God would hold it accountable for its evil. The book moves through Habakkuk's complaints, God's answer, and a closing prayer of trust. With children, explain difficult images simply: people were hurting others, and God takes that seriously.

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Devotional 1 — Bring God Your Honest Questions

Encouragement: God is worthy of your trust, even when your prayers begin with questions.

Read: Habakkuk 1:1–4.

Main thought: Honest prayer brings our pain into our relationship with God.

Reflection: Habakkuk sees violence, conflict, and injustice. Those who should protect others are failing, while wrongdoers seem to have the advantage. He cries out: How long before something changes?

He brings this struggle to the Lord because he believes God is just. His prayer expresses a tension we may recognize: we know God is good, yet struggle to understand what He allows. Faith gives us a reason to keep praying through that tension.

Concerns about relationships, health, school, or work can become honest prayers. We can also listen when others share their burdens, without feeling responsible to explain every sorrow. Jesus teaches us to bring our needs to our Father. We can approach Him honestly and help one another do the same.

Discuss or reflect:
1. What troubles Habakkuk, and what does his prayer reveal about his view of God?
2. What makes honest prayer difficult when you feel disappointed?
3. What concern could you bring to God and share with someone who will pray?
Family question: What feels hard or unfair right now, and how can we pray about it together?

Put it into practice: Complete: “God, I need Your help with…” Listen to one another's answers and return to these requests between sessions.

Guided prayer: Father, we are troubled by ____. Help us turn toward You when we do not understand. Teach us to listen compassionately and care for those who hurt. In Jesus' name, amen.

Devotional 2 — Trust Beyond What You Understand

Encouragement: You can trust God's wisdom while continuing to seek understanding.

Read: Habakkuk 1:5–11.

Main thought: Trusting God includes surrendering our expectations about how He must work.

Reflection: God's answer is startling: Babylon will bring judgment against Judah. Habakkuk wanted wrongdoing addressed, but this answer introduces a frightening problem. Babylon conquers others and treats its strength as a god.

The astonishing work in verse 5 is judgment, so this verse should not become a promise of quick relief. God is acting in ways Habakkuk struggles to understand. Babylon's role in judgment does not excuse its cruelty; God will hold it accountable.

We often want God to follow our timetable. We may also depend on our abilities, influence, or resources as though they could secure everything we need. Following Jesus means placing those things under His direction. Even while larger questions remain, we can serve someone, speak honestly, or obey what God has already made clear.

Discuss or reflect:
1. Why is God's answer surprising? What does Babylon's attitude reveal?
2. When has an answer differed from what you hoped for?
3. Where could you replace a desire for control with faithful obedience?
Family question: What are you good at, and how could you use it to help someone this week?

Put it into practice: Name one situation you cannot control. Choose one faithful action within it: serve, apologize, speak honestly, or ask for help.

Guided prayer: Lord, Your wisdom is greater than ours. Help us trust You and surrender our need for control. Teach us to follow Jesus and use our strength to serve others. Amen.

Devotional 3 — Remember Who God Is

Encouragement: God's character gives you a firm place to stand when answers feel distant.

Read: Habakkuk 1:12–17.

Main thought: We can trust God's character while bringing Him unresolved questions.

Reflection: Habakkuk remembers that God is everlasting, holy, and his Rock. Then he asks how a holy God could use a nation even more wicked than Judah. Babylon treats people like fish to be caught and conquered. Will its cruelty ever end?

The chapter closes with that question unresolved. Habakkuk's confidence in God and his confusion about God's actions appear in the same prayer. We may trust God and still struggle with what has happened. We can acknowledge that honestly as we seek Him.

Remembering God's character helps us keep praying humbly: “Lord, You are faithful, and I need help understanding this.” Jesus' death and resurrection reveal God's saving love and give us hope beyond what we see. We can share that hope while allowing room for grief and uncertainty.

Discuss or reflect:
1. What truths about God does Habakkuk remember as he questions Him?
2. Which truth about God's character do you need most today?
3. How can you support someone without rushing to explain their sorrow?
Family question: What do we know about God that can help us when we feel worried or confused?

Put it into practice: Write a concern beside a truth about God. Pray: “Lord, I do not understand ____, but I know You are ____.”

Guided prayer: Holy God, You are everlasting and faithful. Help us remember Your character, receive hope through Jesus, and care patiently for one another while questions remain. In Jesus' name, amen.

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Devotional 4 — Faithful While We Wait

Encouragement: You can take the next faithful step without seeing the whole road.

Read: Habakkuk 2:1–5.

Main thought: Faith waits on God's word and keeps obeying Him today.

Reflection: Habakkuk waits like a watchman, ready to hear God's answer and receive correction. God tells him to record the vision: its fulfillment has an appointed time. What God has revealed will happen, even when waiting feels long.

This assurance concerns God's purposes, rather than guaranteeing every outcome we desire. It calls us to trust His word and timing. Verse 4 contrasts the proud person with the righteous person who lives by faith. Verse 5 exposes the restlessness of always grasping for more.

Faith depends on God and remains faithful to Him. While waiting, we can keep commitments, seek forgiveness, care for others, and continue praying. These ordinary choices give us opportunities to practice trust. Our confidence rests in Jesus and His grace. We can ask Him to shape our character while we wait for circumstances to change.

Discuss or reflect:
1. What do Habakkuk's posture and God's answer teach about listening and faith?
2. How is waiting affecting your attitude or choices?
3. What has God already made clear that you can obey now?
Family question: What are you waiting for, and what good thing can you do while you wait?

Put it into practice: Choose one responsibility or act of care to complete before the next devotional. Let impatience remind you to pray and act faithfully.

Guided prayer: Father, give us teachable hearts as we wait. Forgive our pride and desire for control. Help us trust Your promises and follow Jesus faithfully today. Amen.

Devotional 5 — What Are We Building?

Encouragement: Every choice to treat people with honesty and care matters to God.

Read: Habakkuk 2:6–14.

Main thought: A life worth building honors God and values people above personal gain.

Reflection: God judges Babylon for plundering others, seeking security through injustice, and building through bloodshed. Its achievements carry the suffering of those it harmed. Even the stones and beams are pictured as witnesses against it.

These warnings address an oppressive empire and invite us to examine our own choices. Do we get ahead at someone else's expense? Do we ignore another person's needs to protect our comfort? Integrity matters in ordinary decisions about money, work, and relationships.

Verse 14 points beyond Babylon to the earth filled with the knowledge of God's glory. Human power is temporary; His glory gives lasting hope. Jesus teaches us to love our neighbors. We reflect His character through honesty, generosity, and respect. As we consider what we hope to accomplish, we must also consider how we treat people along the way.

Discuss or reflect:
1. What wrongdoing does God expose? What hope does verse 14 offer?
2. Where do you feel pressure to put success or comfort above people?
3. How could you use your time, money, or influence more generously?
Family question: How can we show that people matter more than getting our own way or having more things?

Put it into practice: Choose an act of integrity or generosity: give proper credit, return something, share a resource, or give someone your full attention.

Guided prayer: God of justice, examine what we are building. Forgive our selfishness. Teach us to love people as Jesus does and use what we have for Your glory. Amen.

Devotional 6 — Give God His Rightful Place

Encouragement: The living God is worthy of your deepest trust.

Read: Habakkuk 2:15–20.

Main thought: Reverence for God changes what we trust and how we treat others.

Reflection: God's final warnings expose Babylon's humiliation of others, its violence, and its idols. He sees those it has shamed and the destruction it has caused. People who exploit others will be held accountable.

The passage asks what help an idol can give. People make an image and seek its guidance, but it has no life or voice. Then our attention turns to the Lord in His holy temple. The earth is called to silence before Him—a response of reverence, humility, and listening.

We may depend on money, approval, success, or control for security. These things can begin ruling our decisions. Giving God His rightful place helps us release those demands and honor people made in His image. Worship shapes our conversations, habits, and treatment of vulnerable people. Jesus calls us to love our neighbors and entrust ourselves to Him.

Discuss or reflect:
1. How are Babylon's misplaced worship and mistreatment of others connected?
2. What do you depend on for security or approval?
3. How would reverence for God change a habit or relationship?
Family question: How can our words help someone feel loved, especially when others make fun of them?

Put it into practice: Set aside a distraction. Surrender something competing for your trust to God, then choose one way to honor another person.

Guided prayer: Living God, You deserve our worship. Forgive our misplaced trust and careless treatment of others. Quiet our hearts and help us honor You through our words and actions. Amen.

Devotional 7 — Remember His Faithfulness

Encouragement: Remembering God's faithfulness gives you courage to ask for His help again.

Read: Habakkuk 3:1–7.

Main thought: Remembering God leads us to pray for renewed mercy and faith.

Reflection: Habakkuk's conversation becomes a prayer of worship. Having heard of God's mighty works, he asks God to renew His work in his own time. Facing judgment, he pleads for mercy.

Brilliant light, trembling mountains, and shaking nations describe God's glorious appearance. Teman and Mount Paran recall the setting of God's mighty dealings with His people. These images turn Habakkuk's attention toward God's holiness and power. The Lord he has questioned is greater than the nations he fears.

We also need reminders of God's faithfulness. Scripture tells us what He has done, and we can thank Him for His care. Remembering helps us approach Him confidently, even when our next experience unfolds differently. Through Jesus, we can ask for mercy, forgiveness, and renewed love for Him. A fresh commitment may begin with returning to prayer or obeying something we have put off.

Discuss or reflect:
1. What does Habakkuk request, and what do these images reveal about God?
2. What Scripture or experience helps you remember God's faithfulness?
3. Where do you need renewed faith, repentance, or prayer?
Family question: What can we thank God for, and where do we need His help today?

Put it into practice: Record one reminder of God's faithfulness and one request for renewal. Return to both in prayer between devotionals.

Guided prayer: Lord, thank You for Your faithful care. Renew Your work in us, forgive our sin, and deepen our love for You. Help us remember Your greatness when troubles overwhelm us. Amen.

Devotional 8 — The God Who Comes to Save

Encouragement: You can turn to God's saving power when your strength is not enough.

Read: Habakkuk 3:8–15.

Main thought: God's mighty power serves His purpose to save His people.

Reflection: Habakkuk pictures the Lord advancing through waters, over mountains, and against oppressive enemies. This poetry echoes God's deliverance of His people, including the exodus. He overcomes forces they could never defeat alone.

Verse 13 explains His purpose: the salvation of His people and His anointed. The poem celebrates God's saving action amid judgment. Its violent images describe the overthrow of oppression; they do not authorize us to mistreat those we regard as enemies.

We see God's saving love most fully in Jesus' death and resurrection. He rescues us from sin, reconciles us to God, and gives us resurrection hope. We can ask for help with today's needs while resting our deepest confidence in His saving work. His grace also teaches us to receive help humbly and extend care to others. We do not have to carry every burden alone.

Discuss or reflect:
1. How do these images and verse 13 explain God's power and purpose?
2. How does Jesus give hope beyond relief from today's difficulties?
3. Where do you need help rather than relying entirely on yourself?
Family question: What has Jesus done that we could never do for ourselves, and how can we thank Him?

Put it into practice: Thank Jesus for forgiveness and resurrection hope. Bring Him one burden, and ask a trusted person for prayer or practical help.

Guided prayer: Jesus, thank You for dying and rising to save us. Help us depend on Your grace, receive help humbly, and share Your hope through practical love. Amen.

Devotional 9 — Still Good, Still Faithful

Encouragement: God can strengthen your next step, even when the way remains difficult.

Read: Habakkuk 3:16–19.

Main thought: We can trust and worship God amid fear, loss, and uncertainty.

Reflection: Habakkuk trembles as he faces coming trouble. Faith has not removed his physical fear. He describes failed crops, empty fields, and missing livestock—losses threatening food and livelihood.

Yet he chooses to rejoice in the Lord, the God of his salvation. His worship rests in who God is. He names devastating loss and still entrusts himself to God. We too can grieve, ask for provision, and receive care while worshiping. Sometimes worship is a quiet prayer through tears.

Habakkuk ends with the Lord as his strength. Like a deer given sure footing on high ground, he trusts God to sustain him through difficult places. We have brought questions to God, learned to wait on His word, and considered worship in hardship. Those practices can continue as we follow Jesus. Through Scripture, prayer, and the care of His people, we can seek strength for each faithful step.

Discuss or reflect:
1. How do fear, loss, and trust appear together here?
2. How could you rejoice in God while acknowledging real sorrow?
3. What have you learned, and what will help you keep trusting Him?
Family question: When we feel afraid, how can we remind one another that God is still good and still faithful?

Put it into practice: Complete: “Because God is faithful, my next step is…” Plan a time to continue Scripture and prayer after this guide.

Guided prayer: Father, meet us in our fears and grief. Provide for us and strengthen us to follow Jesus, worship You, and care for one another. You are still good and still faithful. Amen.

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exists to bring people into a living, growing and fruitful relationship with Jesus and His church.