

Small Group Homework
For the week of October 4, 2015

5. Habakkuk's response to God's timing and his plan shows wisdom and resolve. Sometimes we are called to tough it out.

Habakkuk 3:16–19 (NIV) I heard and my heart pounded, my lips quivered at the sound; decay crept into my bones, and my legs trembled. Yet I will wait patiently for the day of calamity to come on the nation invading us. ¹⁷ Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, ¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior.

¹⁹ The Sovereign LORD is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights.

What does Habakkuk reject as his source of confidence? What would be your figs, grapes, olives, sheep, and cattle?

Where will he find his confidence (3:18-19)?

- Are the high places safe or dangerous (why do you need sure footing?)
- Does God always let us walk in the comfort of the meadow?

Prayer Requests

- Keep your requests concise but complete
- Keep your prayers concise – don't try to impress
- Feel free to springboard off another's prayer as God brings different insights to mind
- Feel free to pray more than once

⇒

⇒

⇒

The Challenge

Faith is deliberate confidence in the character of God whose ways you may not understand at the time.

– Oswald Chambers

HOW LONG? (Hab 1:2-11; Psa 13:1-2; Psa 22:1-2)

Faith says _____.

Faith says _____.

Faith says _____.

God's amazing answers are not always comforting

HOW COME?

It's okay to _____, but it's not okay to _____.

Success in struggling with faith involves _____.

WHAT'S THE ANSWER?

Success over doubt is not through _____, it's in _____.

Success over doubt is not through _____, it's through focusing on God's _____.

Success is based in joy _____ not in _____.

Consider Habakkuk's complaints against God. Is there a challenge in your life that is leading you toward complaint? Take a moment and consider some encouragement from today's study that leads you toward Habakkuk's success, or a challenge that is keeping you from it.

Small Group Homework
For the week of October 4, 2015

My Story

1. What habits, situations, or general circumstances of life make you angry? (Mildly annoyed, bothered, pet peeve, etc.)

Digging in

2. Read Psalm 13.

Psalm 13 (NIV) How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? ² How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me?

³ Look on me and answer, LORD my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death, ⁴ and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him," and my foes will rejoice when I fall.

⁵ But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. ⁶ I will sing the LORD's praise, for he has been good to me.

What are the doubts that David expresses?

What is David's solution?

How have you come out of your Psalm 13 moments?

Small Group Homework
For the week of October 4, 2015

3. Both Habakkuk and David had strong complaints to God.

When does complaining turn to whining? (*Hint: what is Habakkuk's motive in asking the question?*)

Habakkuk 2:1 (NIV) I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint.

Who does Habakkuk look to for an answer?

Why is Habakkuk standing his watch (see Hab 2:1 above)? What does he expect?

Considering Habakkuk 2:1, what are some ways we can post the watchman around our heart?

Hebrews 10:24–25 (NIV) And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Galatians 6:1–2 (NIV) Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. ² Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

4. God answers Habakkuk in response to his complaint about the evil surrounding him. (Habakkuk 1:3-4; 1:12-13). Yet what is his surprising request to God in Habakkuk 3:2?

Habakkuk 3:2 (NIV) Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord. Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.