EVEN IF

NO ONE LOVES ME
I GET SICK
I'M AFRAID
I LOSE MY JOB
MONEY GETS TIGHT
MY CHILD IS HURTING
I LOSE SOMEONE
MY DREAMS ARE CRUSHED
GOD FEELS SILENT

_____.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND
THE ANSWER DOESN'T COME
EVERYTHING FEELS HOPELESS
I HAVE TO START OVER
MY MARRIAGE FALLS APART
I DON'T FEEL LIKE PRAISING

How are you doing, REALLY?

EVEN IF _____.

Habakkuk RECAP

Lament: the language of bringing our deepest feelings to God

EVEN IF _____.

Habakkuk 1:12–13
He begins with who God is
"Are you not from everlasting,
O LORD my God, my Holy One?"
"Why do you idly look at traitors
and remain silent…?"

EVEN IF _____.

Habakkuk 1:15–17
Babylon worships its net
“Therefore he sacrifices to his net…”

EVEN IF _____.

Four movements of lament

TURN To God

COMPLAIN Tell Him

ASK Make requests

TRUST Cling to Him

EVEN IF _____.

Can I really talk to God like this?
Habakkuk calls it "my complaint." (2:1)

EVEN IF _____.

God gave us words for pain
"Why, O LORD do you stand far away?"
Psalm 10:1
"Awake! Why are you sleeping, O Lord?"
Psalm 44:23

EVEN IF _____.

There is a Lament for what you feel

Emotion / Experience	Example Lament Psalms
Anger / injustice	10, 58, 74, 94
Fear / danger	3, 55, 56, 142
Grief / sadness	6, 42, 43, 102, 137
Loneliness / abandonment	13, 22, 88, 142
Doubt / confusion	13, 44, 77, 89
Illness / physical pain	6, 38, 41, 102
Guilt / shame	25, 38, 51, 130
Betrayal / rejection	41, 55, 69, 109
Waiting / frustration	13, 74, 80, 130

EVEN IF _____.

God has given hurting people words to pray.
Not an expectation to pretend.
An invitation to bring the truth before Him.

EVEN IF _____.

Lament ≠ grumbling

The difference between lament and grumbling is the direction of our complaint.

Grumbling is away from God.

Lament is towards God.

EVEN IF _____.

Habakkuk 1:12–13

Faith offers both before God

Cling to what God says is TRUE!

Bring to Him what genuinely HURTS!

Faith does not require you to drop either hand.

EVEN IF _____.

Which truth will you cling to?

God, I know You are _____.

Holy,
Merciful,
Just,
Near

Good,
Gracious,
Wise,

Loving,
Faithful,
Powerful,

EVEN IF _____.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO
CARRY THIS ALONE.

Pray here.

Talk with an elder.

Reach out to your LifeGroup.

Let somebody walk with you.

EVEN IF _____.

Habakkuk 2:1
He speaks, then he listens.
"I will take my stand at my watchpost..."
The complaint is honest. The heart is teachable.

EVEN IF _____.

Habakkuk 2:2-3

God answers: write it. Wait for it.

Write: God's revealed answer is public and clear.

Wait: Fulfillment has an appointed time.

Trust: God's word will not prove false.

EVEN IF _____.

Habakkuk 2:4

Two different responses

The Proud: Trust their strength and their success

The Righteous: Live by faith in the LORD

"but the righteous shall live by his faith."

EVEN IF _____.

This Vision has a name: Jesus
He took on flesh.
He died for our sins.
He rose from the dead.

EVEN IF_____.

Jesus

Our confidence is not in our strength, it is in our Savior.

EVEN IF _____.

Baptism says: I belong to Jesus
Not "I have every answer."
Not "I never struggle."
But "My hope is in Jesus."

EVEN IF _____.

The Two-Blank Prayer

God, I know you are

_____

But I don't understand

_____

EVEN IF _____.

COMPLAIN

When life doesn't make sense, honestly tell God what is wrong.

THIS WEEK

- Habakkuk 3:17–19 daily
- Practice the two-blank prayer

villagechapel.org/lament

EVEN IF _____.

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