C¹ one**church**

bigldea

God is great. God is good. Almost all of us learned a little prayer when we were 2years old. We believed that when we were younger. But as we continued to live life, we discovered something. The words of that prayer—the words of that song—didn't match up with the pictures we were seeing in life. Our problem? Our perspective is too narrow.



We're only looking at what's right in front of us. And don't see the bigger picture. We have that problem. So did Habakkuk.

BIG IDEA: To see the goodness of God, zoom out to see the big picture by remembering.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Name one way you have personally experienced the goodness of God.
- 2. What are some misconceptions about God and their corresponding consequences?
- 3. *Read Habakkuk 1-2:1.* What kind of relationship do you think Habakkuk had with God? Do you think this gave him hope for the future? Why or why not?
- 4. Name a time when you questions the goodness and greatness of God because of your circumstances.

Habakkuk's problem was tunnel vision. It is our problem as well. We can get so focused on our circumstances and what's right in front of us that we start to see nothing else. We look through our tunnel of today and say, "God is not good. God is not great. If He was, then..." *Fill in the blank*. We are only seeing what's right in front of us and we do not see the bigger picture. So God takes Habakkuk's perspective and widens it in Habakkuk 3.

- 5. *Read Habakkuk 3:1.* How does Habakkuk start chapter 1? How does he start chapter 3? What's changed? Has Habakkuk's circumstances changed? How has Habakkuk changed?
- 6. *Read Habakkuk 3:1-16.* Describe a time when God gave you hope through something amazing He did in the life of another person.
- 7. *Read Habakkuk 3:17-18.* Has there been a time in your life when God gave you joy even though your circumstances appeared hopeless?
- 8. What is the difference between understanding God's attributes intellectually and letting them shape your life?
- 9. Chip Ingram said, "Ultimately God isn't good because he does good things for us. And God isn't good because of something in us." Does that go against any misconceptions you've been taught about God?
- 10. Name one thing you're thankful for that you have taken for granted in the past.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

- 1. Read 1 Chronicles 16:7-43. When was the last time you felt overwhelmed with thankfulness or gratitude?
- 2. According to David, why should we give thanks to the Lord? (16:8) What should people tell others about God? (16:9)
- 3. What attitude should a person have toward God? (16:10-12) What had God done for Israel? (16:15-22)
- 4. How did David express his thanks to God? How should we express our thanks and appreciation to God?
- 5. For what specific reasons should we praise the Lord?
- 6. How can praising the Lord change our attitude and outlook on life?
- 7. What are some of the reasons you have to be thankful to God?

In the face of an apparently hopeless situation, Habakkuk still had this to say about God:

"...yet I will rejoice in the LORD! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation. The Sovereign LORD is my strength! He will make me as surefooted as a deer and bring me safely over the mountains." Habakkuk 3:18-19 (NLT)

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Habakkuk moved from hopelessness to joy over the 3 chapters of this book. In what areas of your life would you like God to take you from hopelessness to joy? What would have to change inside of you for you to move from hopelessness to joy? (Notice, I didn't ask, "What would have to change in your circumstances.")

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, yet I will rejoice in the LORD! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation! Habakkuk 3:17-18