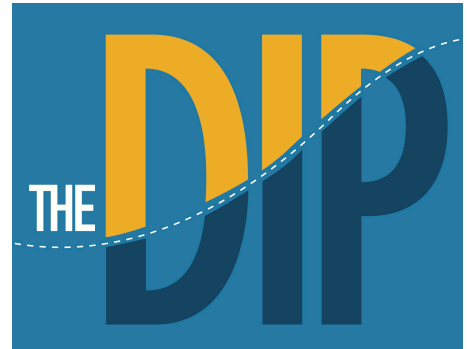


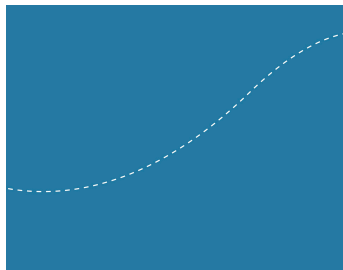
You see it every day. Bad people taking advantage of the weak. Good people down on their luck. Innocent people suffering. War. Injustice. Ever get the feeling God isn't fair? Discover how an Old Testament prophet can inspire a modern day faith in God's Promises.



**BIG IDEA:** *Be honest in our conversations with God. He gives us permission to struggle with our faith.*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is your first or most vivid memory of crying out, “That’s not fair!”? What would have been more fair? What injustice have you experienced since then? How do you react now?
2. What one thing trips your trigger and makes you most angry? Have you ever been angry with God? What about?
3. Do you believe it is possible to trust in God, yet ask questions of Him at the same time?
4. Habakkuk’s name means *to wrestle with God*. What is the significance of this in light of Habakkuk’s questions and conversations with God?
5. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Habakkuk 1:2-4.* Habakkuk complained against God, pointing out injustices he saw in the world around him. When have you been angry with God? Do you think your anger was justifiable? Why or why not?
6. Have you ever been honest with God about your frustrations? What did you say or think in that moment of frustration?
7. How did God respond to your honesty? *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Habakkuk 1:5-11.* How did God respond to Habakkuk’s honesty?
8. In your opinion, do you think it’s okay to question God?
9. Henry Blackaby wrote about what he called a “crisis of belief.” Describe a time when, like Habakkuk, you experienced a crisis of belief.
10. Look at the chart below. Where would you say you are with God? What is God teaching you?



11. How would you describe Habakkuk’s mood in this passage? What seems to be his driving passion here?
12. Describe a time when you’ve had similar feelings. In those moments, did you have this kind of frank and raw conversation with God? Why or why not?
13. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Habakkuk 1:12-13.* Why do you think Habakkuk felt so shocked by God’s response?
14. When and where do you see injustices like these today?
15. Describe a time when you felt a sense of “injustice” similar to Habakkuk’s.



## DIGGING DEEPER

1. If God would answer one question what would you ask Him?
2. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read 2 Kings 23:31-24:7.* This provides the context and the historical background for Habakkuk's questions and the writing of this book. What was the social, political, and theological climate at that time?
3. Habakkuk's name means *to wrestle with God*. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Genesis 32:22-32.* Jacob (his name means *deceiver*) was renamed Israel (*he struggles with God*). The people of God become known as the Israelites—in other words, *the people who are marked by their struggle with God*. Their name defined their relationship with God throughout their tumultuous history. Like Jacob (Israel), how have you been marked by your struggles and wrestling with God?
4. What did Habakkuk receive? (1:1) About what was the prophet distressed? (1:2-4) How did God answer Habakkuk's complaint? (1:5-11) Why was the prophet perplexed and bewildered? (1:12-17)
5. When people suffer because of violence and injustice, how do you feel? God used the ungodly Babylonians to punish Israel. How does God speak to Christians through the actions of pagans nowadays? When have you been perplexed about why God allowed something to happen?
6. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Habakkuk 2:1.* How hard do you think it must have been for Habakkuk to wait on God's timing?
7. In your past experience, how has waiting on God's timing affected your attitudes toward God and the circumstances?
8. Is there some area of your life where you are struggling to wait on God's timing, frustrated by His answers or confused by apparent injustice?

## MOVING FORWARD

Take the next few minutes to have an honest personal conversation with God and people in your group about your struggles. Remember—God has broad shoulders and a loving spirit. He is interested in what you have to say! When can you take time this week to be open and honest with the Lord about some of your deepest concerns or frustrations? Write down three ways or areas in which you can be more honest with God, then pray together as a group.

## WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Think about some of the areas of hardship in your own life. Take a look at the verse below:

“Through \_\_\_\_\_, yet I will rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation!”  
*Based upon Habakkuk 3:17-18*

Take a moment to fill in the blank with something in your life that's a struggle, a doubt, a place of pain, or a temptation. Write the above verse on a card and look at it throughout the week as a reminder to trust in the Lord, even in the midst of struggles and hardships.

## CHANGING YOUR MIND

*How long, O LORD, must I call for help? But you do not listen! “Violence is everywhere!” I cry, but you do not come to save. Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds.* Habakkuk 1:2-3

