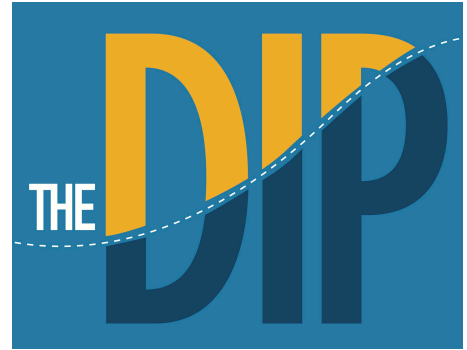


# onechurch

bigIdea small group discussion

We all face times in our lives when we wonder if we are alone. Deep down we know we are not alone, but the question still haunts us. What if God does not show up? What if I am alone? What if this situation never changes? But the truth is, we have a choice and the choice is to trust in a God that never fails, even when we don't understand. Our character is defined in the times we feel like we are waiting on God.

**BIG IDEA:** God is more concerned with my character than He is my calendar.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is your worst waiting room experience? Perhaps it was at the dentist's office, an emergency room, a car repair shop, or some other waiting room environment. What made it so bad?
2. In what area of life do you currently find yourself in a waiting room? What emotions are you experiencing as you wait?
3. When told, "Wait for it," how do you respond? What do you have the hardest time waiting for?
  - a. Waiting for dinner?
  - b. Waiting for vacation?
  - c. Waiting in traffic
  - d. Waiting in line at Wal-Mart?
  - e. Waiting for a tax return?
  - f. Waiting for Christmas?
4. What are some things that God has taught you during a waiting period?
5. Do you believe that God allows us to experience pain? Why or why not?
6. Habakkuk didn't understand why God would use the wicked Babylonians to destroy his people. Is there something in your life you don't understand? Explain.
7. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Habakkuk 2:1-3.* Chris mentioned 4 things that we can do when we're left waiting on God for answers. *Stop. Listen. Write. Wait.* Which one is the hardest for you to do? Which one do you need to do in order to get closer to God in your dip?

### **Stop**

8. How did Habakkuk stop what he was doing and changed his perspective in Habakkuk 2:1?
9. Chris said, "*Change of pace + change of place = change of perspective.*" What things do you need to see from a different perspective? Is it difficult for you to still yourself and *stop*? What promise comes from us being still in Psalm 46:10?

### **Listen**

10. Has someone ever asked you a question and then won't shut up and give you time to answer before talking? How does that make you feel?
11. Habakkuk asked his questions, and then stopped and listened to God. When you pray, do you fill the silence with your words? Do you allow time for God to speak? How can you be a better listener to God? How can you be a better listener in your relationships?

## **Write**

12. Chris said, “We have a tendency to forget God’s faithfulness. Even though God has a perfect track record, when we get in knee deep into our problems, we forget that God has always come through for us—every time! Because of this, why is it important to write down our struggles and our victories?”
13. Habakkuk stopped to listen and write down the revelation. What is God saying to you?

## **Wait**

14. One of the most quoted verses from Habakkuk is verse 2:4: “...but the righteous (or just) will live by faith.” What does this verse mean to you? (See also Romans 3:23-26.)
15. How has God used “a dip” to draw you closer to Him?

## **DIGGING DEEPER**

1. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Habakkuk 2:4.* When Habakkuk questioned God about evil and injustice, verse 4 was God’s response.
2. What did it mean for Habakkuk and his people to “live by faith?”
3. Describe a time in your life when the circumstances seemed hopeless but you “lived by faith.”
4. How did you see God’s goodness revealed through these circumstances?
5. How did it affect your relationship with God? Your relationship with others?
6. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Habakkuk 2:18-20.*
7. What is an idol?

idol: an image or other material object representing a deity other than God; a false conception or notion; fallacy.

8. Many Jews were trusting idols to rescue them. What kind of “idols” do many people look to for their rescue today?
9. Describe areas in your life where you are tempted to trust in “idols” rather than God?
10. How will you “live by faith” in those areas of your life? How can your group help you?
11. Look at the chart below. Where would you say you are with God? What is God teaching you?

## **MOVING FORWARD**

God is much more concerned with my character than He is my calendar. Sometimes God allows our lives to be interrupted to prepare us for something different. Has there been a time when you gave up on God’s timing, and you did something on your own that you now regret (took a job, bought a house, started a relationship, etc)?

## **WHAT WILL YOU DO?**

Pray together in your own words and ask God for the following:

- Eyes to see His goodness in every area of your life
- Wisdom to identify and reject any “idols” you may be putting your trust in
- Strength to “live by faith” and trust Him even when things look hopeless.

## **BOOKS FOR FURTHER READING**

*Torn*, Jud Wilhite

*Disappointment with God*, Phillip Yancey

*The Problem with Pain*, Phillip Yancey

## **CHANGING YOUR MIND**

*I will climb up to my watchtower and stand at my guardpost. There I will wait to see what the Lord says and how he will answer my complaint.* Habakkuk 2:1

