



# WHEN LIFE ISN'T FAIR

## WHEN LIFE ISN'T FAIR, PART 3: STRUGGLING WITH WORSHIP

When we face problems with fear, we get forgetful. We forget what God has done in our lives, and in the lives of the people around us. Habakkuk's choice to worship and remember provide us all with an example when life isn't fair.

**THE BIG IDEA:** When life isn't fair, worship and remember God—He's not finished.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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?
2. Describe a time when God gave you hope through something amazing He did in the life of another person.
3. Why should we be glad when trials happen? (*see 1 Peter 4:12-13, James 1:2-4, and Romans 5:3-6*) What is God doing inside of us when we face problems?
4. Chris says, "All of us value comfort over character development. But easy lives do not make great stories." What's a story that you enjoy where conflict happens and character development and a growth arc happen?
5. Read the beginning of Habakkuk from the Amplified version...

*A PRAYER of Habakkuk the prophet, set to wild, enthusiastic, and triumphal music.*

[Habakkuk 3:1 \(Amplified\)](#)

6. Chris said that the definition of enthusiasm comes from two Greek words: *en* (in) and *Theos* (God)—God in. To be enthusiastic about something means that you see God working in something. Where are some areas in which God may be setting the stage to work great things in your life? *Hint: many times, it's in the problem areas of our life!* How would your attitude change toward your problems if you saw what God is trying to do in and around you?
7. Chris said the first thing we must do to get out of the dip is we need to make the choice to *worship*. Why can the distraught Habakkuk start to be joyful? How has his situation changed?
8. Chris said the second thing we must do to get out of the dip is *remember* what God has done. With your Bible, read Habakkuk 3 and write down all of the events in the Old Testament that Habakkuk *remembers*.

<sup>1</sup> *This prayer was sung by the prophet Habakkuk: <sup>2</sup> I have heard all about you, LORD. I am filled with awe by your amazing works. In this time of our deep need, help us again as you did in years gone by. And in your anger, remember your mercy. <sup>3</sup> I see God moving across the deserts from Edom, the Holy One coming from Mount Paran. His brilliant splendor fills the heavens, and the earth is filled with his praise. <sup>4</sup> His coming is as brilliant as the sunrise. Rays of light flash from his hands, where his awesome power is hidden. <sup>5</sup> Pestilence marches before him; plague follows close behind. <sup>6</sup> When he stops, the earth shakes. When he looks, the nations tremble. He shatters the everlasting mountains and levels the eternal hills. He is the Eternal One! <sup>7</sup> I see the people of Cushan in distress, and the nation of Midian trembling in terror. <sup>8</sup> Was it in anger, LORD, that you struck the rivers and parted the sea? Were you displeased with them? No, you were sending your chariots of salvation! <sup>9</sup> You brandished your bow and your quiver of arrows. You split open the earth with flowing rivers. <sup>10</sup> The mountains watched and trembled. Onward swept the raging waters. The mighty deep cried out, lifting its hands in submission. <sup>11</sup> The sun and moon stood still in the sky as your brilliant arrows flew and your glittering spear flashed. <sup>12</sup> You marched across the land in anger and trampled the nations in your fury. <sup>13</sup> You went out to rescue your chosen people, to save your anointed ones. You crushed the heads of the wicked and stripped their bones from head to toe. <sup>14</sup> With his own weapons, you destroyed the chief of those who rushed out like a whirlwind, thinking Israel would be easy prey. <sup>15</sup> You trampled the sea with your horses, and the mighty waters piled high. <sup>16</sup> I trembled inside when I heard this;*

*my lips quivered with fear. My legs gave way beneath me, and I shook in terror. I will wait quietly for the coming day when disaster will strike the people who invade us.* [Habakkuk 3:1-16 \(NLT\)](#)

9. To what historical events do these verses in Habakkuk 3 relate?
- Habakkuk 3:3-5 (see Exodus 7-12)
  - Habakkuk 3:4 (Exodus 34:29, 35)
  - Habakkuk 3:6-7 (see Exodus 19:16)
  - Habakkuk 3:8-10 (see Exodus 14:15-31; Joshua 3:15-17)
  - Habakkuk 3:11 (see Joshua 10:12-13)
10. How does reciting God's marvelous deeds in the past anticipate God's future deliverance today?
11. How does the theme of trust in God's sovereignty and deliverance resonate in these verses where Habakkuk remembers God's past deeds?
12. With your Bible or Bible App, [read Habakkuk 3:17-18.](#)

*<sup>17</sup> 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, <sup>18</sup> yet I will rejoice in the LORD! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation!*

[Habakkuk 3:17-18 \(NLT\)](#)

13. Habakkuk chooses to worship even though everything is going against him. When you think of worship, do you see it as an emotion or a choice? Why?
14. Has there been a time in your life when God gave you joy even though your circumstances appeared hopeless?
15. 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?

## THINK ABOUT IT

*Hitting the wall* is a term sometimes used when describing a crisis of belief. Author Janet Hagberg says, "We cannot escape most of the crises in our lives, nor should we. In fact, these events frequently provide the energy for movement on our spiritual journey." Have you ever experienced this in your own spiritual journey? How did you come out of that season, and did it lead to a positive change in your perspective?

Wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith today, whether you are experiencing a season of growth, walking through challenges, or even if you've hit the wall, God is with you and will never leave you. End group in prayer for one another's journey, acknowledging God's presence and love through all of life's ups and downs.

## BOOKS FOR FURTHER READING

[Torn](#), Jud Wilhite

[Disappointment with God](#), Phillip Yancey

[It's Not Supposed to Be This Way](#), Lysa TerKeurst

## WEEKLY READING

Spend some time this week reading and reflecting on Habakkuk 3, 1 Peter 4:12-13, and Hebrews 12:1-3.