

DG Guide: Amos 1 & 2

Opening Prayer

Starter Question

Think about a time when you prayed for something specific, but the answer felt like a delay or a "wait", or thing actually got worse! How did that experience shape your trust in God's character and timing?

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **You can take your raw complaints directly to God without fear of judgment.** God is not afraid of our grief or our questions; He invites us to bring everything to Him as our rock and our king.
2. **Things may seem to get worse before they get better, but God's timing is certain and His word will not lie.** Habakkuk was told to write the vision on stone because the delay was part of God's perfect plan, and the righteous will survive by their faith.
3. **We must identify our personal "fishing nets" and stop worshipping whatever gives us what we want.** The wicked in Habakkuk's day sacrificed to their dragnet, and today we often give our lives to worldly systems that promise fulfillment instead of clinging to God.
4. **We must stop grading ourselves on a curve and compare our lives only to Jesus.** We should not expect God to reward relative righteousness or compare our struggles to others; instead, we receive His righteousness as a gift through faith in Christ.
5. **We are called to bear one another's burdens and share our complaints and struggles openly.** By lifting each other up and sharing our weights, we fulfill the law of Christ and build a community that reflects the love of Jesus.

Scripture Reading

Read together: Habakkuk 2:12–3:3

Discussion Questions

Understanding Habakkuk's Complaint and God's Response

1. Habakkuk describes the wicked as worshipping their fishing nets. What does Don mean when he said, "We give our lives to the thing that gives us what we want"? How does this apply to our own lives?
2. Read Habakkuk 1:13-14. Why do the wicked nations "sacrifice to their dragnet"? What does this reveal about their heart and their ultimate allegiance?
3. Read Habakkuk 2:12-15. How does Habakkuk frame his complaint to God? In what ways does he show that he isn't just grumbling, but seeking a relationship with God?

Looking at Our Hearts and Our Idols

1. In what area of your life have you been tempted to turn to a "fishing net" or an idol instead of trusting God to provide what you need? How has this affected your relationship with Him?
2. Don talked about "grading ourselves on a curve," where we compare our lives to others and expect God to reward relative righteousness. How has this mindset affected your view of God's justice or your own spiritual growth?
3. Share a time when you felt God was silent or when things seemed to get worse after you prayed. How did you respond, and what did you learn about God's character in that moment?

Living It Out and Community Response

1. Read Galatians 6:2. What does it mean practically to "bear one another's burdens"? How can our discipleship groups and households model this this week?
2. Don said Habakkuk stood on the watchtower waiting for his rebuke. What does it mean to wait for God's answer with a posture of humility rather than judgment? How can we practice this in our daily lives?
3. If you have been holding onto a complaint or a request you dare not bring to God because you fear the answer might be "wait" or "no," how can you start to bring it to God this week? Who can you share it with?
4. Don emphasised that "righteousness comes as a gift from God to those who put their trust and faith in him." How does this truth change the way you view your own spiritual struggles and the struggles of others?
5. Read Romans 1:17 and Galatians 3:22. How do these passages connect Habakkuk's faith to the gospel of Christ? What does it mean to "live by faith" in the context of the gospel?

Personal Reflection

- Where is God exposing something specific in your life through Habakkuk's story where you've been relying on your own strength or worldly systems instead of trusting Him?
- In what area have you been grading yourself on a curve, expecting God to reward you based on how you compare to others?
- What one concrete step will you take this week to bring a complaint or a request to God and share it with someone in your group or household?

Group Commitments

Choose 1-2 of these to commit to as a group:

Prayer: Each person will pray for one other member of the group, specifically asking God to help them identify and release any "fishing nets" or idols they are relying on.

Scripture Study: Read Habakkuk 2:12–3:3 together and discuss how the message applies to contemporary Australian life, focusing on the concept of worshipping our dragnets.

Accountability: Pair up and share one burden or complaint you have been carrying that you haven't brought to God or others, and pray together for wisdom and release.

Relational/Practical: Invite one non-Christian or someone in need into the church family this week and share the gospel with them, emphasising that righteousness is a gift through faith in Christ.

Prayer: Pray for the church and the nation, asking God to reveal the idols we worship and to help us cling to His word and community as He guides us.

Closing Exercise

Write down a sentence that captures your commitment to this week. It might be something like, "This week, I'll bring my complaints to God and share them with the DG," or "I'll stop comparing my life to others and rest in God's gift of righteousness".

Closing Prayer

Pray together, focusing on:

- Worship connected to the truth we studied today: Acknowledge God as our rock, our king, and the one who can handle our complaints.
- Confession connected to the topic: Repent of times we have worshipped our dragnets or graded ourselves on a curve.
- Thanksgiving for the gospel application: Thank God for giving us His righteousness as a gift through faith in Christ.
- Commitment / intercession for each other: Pray for the group's commitment to bear one another's burdens and share their struggles.
- Boldness or mission: Ask for courage to invite non-Christians into the family and to share the gospel with love.

For Next Week

- Follow through on group commitment: Share how you prayed, studied, or acted on your commitments this week.
- Memory verse: Habakkuk 2:3 "The righteous will live by his faith."
- Preparation: Read Habakkuk 3:1–10 and reflect on how Habakkuk's response changes as he sees God's sovereignty and glory.

Leader Notes

- Pastoral sensitivity needed for this specific topic: Some members may be struggling with deep complaints or feelings of abandonment by God; approach these conversations with grace and patience.
- Common pitfalls or misunderstandings to watch for with this passage: Avoid prosperity gospel interpretations that claim God always answers prayers immediately; emphasize that God's "wait" is part of His perfect plan.
- How to maintain a grace-centred tone (not performance-based): Focus on God's character and faithfulness rather than our ability to "get it right"; remind the group that we are saved by faith, not by our spiritual achievements.
- One encouragement for you personally: Remember that your own struggles and complaints are valid and welcomed by God; model vulnerability and trust in Him for the group.

Or, if you just want a bunch of discussion prompts:

1. How does Habakkuk's decision to stand on the watchtower reflect a healthy posture toward God's silence and delay?
2. What are some examples of "fishing nets" or idols that modern society worships, and how do they affect our trust in God?
3. How does the concept of "grading ourselves on a curve" impact our view of God's justice and our own spiritual growth?
4. In what ways can our discipleship groups better model bearing one another's burdens and sharing our struggles?
5. How does the gospel of Christ change the way we understand righteousness and our response to suffering?
6. What does it mean to "live by faith" in the context of Habakkuk's story, and how does this apply to our daily lives?
7. How can we invite non-Christians into the church family and share the gospel with them in a way that emphasizes grace and faith?
8. What are some practical steps we can take to cling to God's word when we face delays or hardships in our lives?
9. How does the image of Habakkuk writing the vision on stone help us understand the importance of Scripture in our lives?
10. In what ways can we better model Habakkuk's posture of waiting for God's answer with humility and trust?